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Defense Ministers' Meeting: Grachev Fires Spokesman

LD0112133594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 1 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's session of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers began with insistent calls by many heads of war departments to defend them from incompetent attacks in the press.

At the session [Russian Defense Minister] Pavel Grachev announced the removal of (Serafim Yushkov), head of the press center of the Staff for Coordination of Military Cooperation of CIS Member States, from his post and his transferral to the Administration for Information of the Defense Ministry. Yushkov was removed for exceeding his official powers. It is implied evidently that he has been punished for his open letter to Boris Yeltsin in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of 22 October.

In general, the session discussed questions of a military-political nature, namely, the planned widening of the powers of the commander of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in Tajikistan, material-technical and financial back up for maintaining peace in the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict zone, and also reorganization of the structure of the Staff for Coordinating Military Cooperation.

Grachev on CIS Peacekeeping in Tajikistan, Abkhazia

LD0112231994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the Council of CIS Defence Ministers took place on Thursday [1 December] in the Moscow headquarters for coordinating military cooperation. In an interview the Russian minister Pavel Grachev who chaired the meeting told journalists what he thought were the most important issues which had been discussed. They include increasing the powers of the commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces in the republic of Tajikistan. At present these duties are performed by Lieutenant-General Valeriy Patrikeyev.

[Begin Grachev recording] The main point of the additional powers is that if an emergency situation arises on a particular section in Tajikistan Lieutenant-General Patrikeyev has the right to take the decision autonomously to use peacekeeping forces and then, subsequently, to inform and submit a report to the defense ministers of the states whose peacekeeping forces are used. The second aspect is to introduce structural or organizational and manning level changes to the structure of the management apparatus of the peacekeeping forces and to allow him to recommend the appointment or dismissal of those officers and generals whom he considers it necessary to dismiss. [end recording]

Grachev said that a solution has also been found to the question of financing the CIS collective peacekeeping forces' operation in Abkhazia. The minister expressed satisfaction that at present there is considerably less dispute about this question. He also noted that Ukraine which did not sign the Collective Security Treaty also expressed the wish to make a contribution, within its means, to restoring peace in this hot spot.

Council Discusses Promotion of Economic Cooperation

LD0112195794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1719 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Viktor Sakhankov for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk December 1—The CIS Intergovernmental Council has set up an operating council on agroindustrial sector and an intergovernmental science and technology centre as a move to promote economic cooperation between the CIS states.

The Intergovernmental Council met in Minsk today. Two items on the agenda were the agrarian policy and agricultural economic reforms, and cooperation in control of animal and plant parasites and diseases.

These challenges are urgent, with the CIS' agricultural sectors plagued by decline in production and monetary systems and by climbing energy prices.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Dec

LD0112124294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian 2315 GMT 30 Nov 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 December— The situation in Chechnya is the main topic of today's Russian newspapers. "The Situation in Chechnya Is Russia's Domestic Problem", KRASNAYA ZVEZDA stresses, "and nobody but Russia can solve it." The newspaper notes that the time limits set by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his address to participants in the armed conflict in Chechnya "do not bind the president himself to undertake reply measures exactly on the morning of 1 December." At the same time, in the view of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the head of state's appeal is a reminder: He will not procrastinate with solving the conflict.

At the same time, IZVESTIYA describes the 48-hour time limit mentioned in the Russian president's appeal as the time limit of "an ultimatum which Moscow has announced to Chechnya" and recalls that it would expire by the time today's edition had reached its readers. The newspaper noted that "reports on the concentration and movement of Russian armed formations are coming from regions adjacent to Chechnya," while reportage from Groznyy stresses that "Dudayev's supporters are showing their resoluteness to fight for independence to the end" and "the republican authorities are trying to use the 48 hours that the Russian president has allocated for laying down arms as much as possible in order to repel Russian aggression." "Russian troops may enter Groznyy if there is non-compliance with the ultimatum, provocations, or procrastination," IZVESTIYA concludes.

In its turn NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA claims that the Russian forces amassed around Chechnya are such that they are "capable of completing their task in 72 hours and presenting the Federation Council with the fact of 'constitutional legality' having being restored in Chechnya." According to the newspaper, the main load will be put on a grouping of Russian Interior Ministry's internal troops and units of the North Caucasus military district, and when Groznyy is stormed it is expected also that "special sub-units of the Main Guard directorate will be used whose principal task will be to capture General Dudayev and his close entourage." NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA adds that "Russian ambassadors in North African and Middle Eastern Muslim countries received coded messages from the Russian Foreign Ministry instructing them to meet local political leaders and to warn them about the impermissibility of giving any kind of help to Dzhokhar Dudayev."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports that the Russian Federation Committee of Soldiers' Mothers has sent messages to the Russian president and the Federal Assembly, urging them to "explain to the citizens of Russia openly which troops are being used in Chechnya, who personally and in accordance with whose decision sent Russian servicemen and placed them at the disposal of the Chechen opposition".

PRAVDA runs a statement by the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation that solutions to problems that have piled up in Chechnya should be sought "along the lines of reaching mutual understanding through dialogue and reconciliation, not through ultimatum-like demands which have the nature of an overt threat of a military intervention".

The Communist Party leadership urged the official authorities in Chechnya to release Russian servicemen who were taken prisoner.

The press comments on the Russian president's decree on the establishment of a "Russian public television" on the basis of the Ostankino Television and Radio Network.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI is of the opinion that "the spontaneous 'corporatization' of Ostankino, which has been going on for a long time, will become corporatization proper without any quotation marks as an organized and reasonably managed process."

At the same time the newspaper believes that "Ostankino, upon becoming independent from the state, would turn into an object of political longing as the election date draws nearer".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes that "the previous concern over pressure from financial entities is suddenly giving way to awareness of the outstanding role of the Menatem, Inkombank as well as the Stolichny bank, the Autovaz, etc. Forty-nine percent of the shares of "Russian public television" are to be turned over to these financial organizations."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article dealing with a decree, which is being prepared by the Russian president, about a 30 percent Defense Ministry staff cut.

"The announcement about the decree was not unexpected to the ministry staff, just as the assumption that, as a result of the purge, three out of eight deputy defense ministers—Boris Gromov, Valeriy Mironov and Vladimir Toporov—may lose 'their' ministry subdivisions which are currently under their authority."

At the same time the newspaper points out that, in the opinion of sources in the Defense Ministry and the general staff, it is hardly worthwhile to present these generals "as a certain opposition to Defense Minister Pavel Grachev."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA analyzes the results of elections to representative power bodies in Krasnodar territory:

"This time the electorate finally rejected the democrats. The voters believe the executive authorities little now and give absolute preference to the opposition."

TRUD points out that not a single member of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party was elected to local government bodies in Nizhniy Novgorod city and the region, although at one time almost a third of the electorate voted for the Vladimir Zhirinovskiy-headed party.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov who dwelled on the first world meeting of solidarity with Cuba. The Russian Communist Party leader said the international forum, held in Havana at the end of November, was attended by more than 3,000 people from over 100 countries, among them 120 members of parliaments.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Dec

LD0212072194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0636 GMT 2 Dec 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—The situation concerning Chechnya is the principal topic in today's press.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs the text of a presidential decree on the appointment of Nikolay Yegorov, minister for ethnic affairs and regional policy, to be the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic.

IZVESTIYA writes in this connection that Yegorov is a native of the northern Caucasus and knows well the specifics of the region. "However, Yegorov is only representative of the military-and-political headquarters at the forward edge while the headquarters itself is in Moscow"

IZVESTIYA points out that the pause, which developed upon the expiry of the ultimatum to the warring Chechen leaders, does not mean Moscow's bewilderment over the lack of further plans of action.

It has become known from informed sources in the Kremlin that such plans were worked out mainly before the Russian president's message was sent out and that the necessary resources and forces are being built up according to an approved scheme in the event of the imposition of a state of emergency.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) carries an article about the situation concerning Chechnya under the headline "the Chechen 'knot': the president of Russia acts in full conformity with the Constitution".

The newspaper states that the anxious situation taking shape there "gives rise to serious concern throughout the Caucasian region...

"The explosive events taking place in Chechnya may become a detonator of an aggravation of the sociopolitical situation throughout southern Russia and threaten with the Chechen Republic's break-up into separate feuding clan entities".

According to IZVESTIYA, on November 30 Dzhokhar Dudayev on his own initiative phoned Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. "They spoke of the fate of Russian commissioned and non-commissioned officers whom the Defence Ministry regards as Chechnya's hostages, not prisoners of war".

Referring to reliable sources, the newspaper reports that Dudayev and Grachev "reached agreement about absolute inviolability of Russian citizens captured in Chechnya during a military operation."

The Russian defence minister, in an exclusive interview, told IZVESTIYA on December 1 that he issued an instruction to identify all Russian volunteers among Chechen opposition forces, bring them to Mozdok and disarm. A plane will be sent to collect them.

"As for 28 commissioned and non-commissioned officers, who are kept in custody in Groznyy, appropriate agencies actively work to secure their release. The minister has no doubt that they will return home, safe and sound, shortly", IZVESTIYA writes.

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA (New Daily Newspaper) carries a transcript of a telephone conversation between the newspaper's staff member in Moscow with Dzhokhar Dudayev on December 1.

Asked about the "fate of Russian prisoners of war", the Chechen president answered: "I do everything possible to save their lives... Everything seems to indicate that, unlike myself, the Russian military and generals do not show any care for the lives of their soldiers. An order has already been issued to establish court- martials which are to decide the future of the prisoners of war. But your POWs do not want to return home for fear of the Federal Counterintelligence Service".

Dudayev also said "volunteers are coming to Chechnya from Dagestan, from over all Caucasus. Afghan mujahideen are also arriving."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, referring to the Chechen State Committee for Defence, reports that "several thousand volunteers from Dagestan and Kabardino-Balkaria have already arrived there. Several hundred Ingushes have joined them."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that the parliament of the Confederation of the Peoples of the Caucasus (CPC) is to meet in Nalchik on Sunday to discuss the situation in Chechnya and may take a decision to urgently convene a congress of the Peoples of the Caucasus. "Depending on how acute the Chechen situation will be, the CPC would call on the peoples of the north Caucasus to send their volunteers there".

TRUD, which contacted Groznyy by telephone on December 1, carries remarks by Musa Sultanov, chief of the analysis and information section of the Chechen State Security Department, who stated in particular that "if Moscow eventually delivers a strike against Groznyy, Groznyy would strike back against Moscow".

Newspapers report in detail measures to tighten security in Moscow. The guarding of vital facilities has been enhanced and armed police have been reinforced by armed soldiers.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, touching upon the December 1 session of the defence ministers' Council of the CIS Member-States, singles out the Council's decision to extend the powers of the commander of the collective peacekeeping force in Tajikistan for control over the assigned units.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA runs a four-page bulletin Sodruzhestvo (The Commonwealth of Independent States)—the joint edition of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and the newspaper. Among a variety of materials, the newspaper runs the charter of social rights of and guarantees for the citizens of the independent states.

IZVESTIYA carries an article by news analyst Otto Lacis about the threat of fascism and political extremism in Russia.

Several newspapers examine the conflict between the Bolshoy Theatre director and his art-advisers.

Among international topics, the press singles out the Serbian offensive on Bihac.

Kozyrev Leaves France for Brussels NATO Meeting

LD0112164394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1550 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris December 1 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev ended a one-day visit to France on Thursday [1 December]. He addressed a session of the parliamentary assembly of the West-European Union at the invitation of the leaders of this organisation which deals with military issues.

Kozyrev left Paris for Brussels to attend a session of the Council of the North Atlantic Cooperation. An individual cooperation programme "Russia-NATO" is expected to be signed. At the same time, the foreign ministers of the contact group will meet to discuss the settlement of the Bosnian crisis.

Opposes NATO's Extension to East

LD0112190894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1832 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Mikhail Kalmykov, Andrey Krasnoshchekov, Yuriy Lopatin, and Aleksey Poroshin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris December 1 TASS—The development of multi-aspect partnership is the most straightforward way to overcome mutual distrust, existing in Russia's relations with NATO and other West-European agencies. This distrust is a remainder of the past, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told participants in the 40th session of the Western European Union's assembly here on Thursday [1 December].

At the session, Kozyrev described Russia's stance on the European security problems.

Asked about the Russian attitude to NATO's possible extending to the east, Kozyrev said that "this problem is to be solved by these (East-European) countries themselves". In Russia's view, however, one must not speed up this process, as the current stage offers good prospects for East-European countries' interaction with NATO within the Partnership for Peace program.

This will enable (the concerned states) to overcome mutual suspicions and specify spheres and forms of cooperation. It would be appropriate to decide on this or that country's joining NATO only after a "preparatory period", the Russian foreign minister said.

Russia does not view NATO as a potential enemy. However, we are talking about enlarging a military and political organization, which may bring its eastern borders much closer to Russia, and this can stir up a certain concern in the Russian public. Therefore, "one need not hurry with extending NATO. Haste will make no good", he said.

Touching upon a forthcoming Budapest summit of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Kozyrev said Russia believes the CSCE must play central part in the European process due to its universal nature.

The CSCE's original goal was to unite all the European countries. At the modern stage, it should become an efficient international organization, with its charter, as well as legal and institutional support for peace-making operations and protection of human rights. The CSCE authority should be also used to prevent the development of aggressive nationalism, the Russian minister said.

Speaking about a suggested revision of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Kozyrev said Russia stands for the only amendment to the document, that is to make it infinite. At the same time, Russian proposals on further reduction of Russian and U.S. nuclear arsenals are still in force, Kozyrev noted.

Asked to comment upon the last French initiative to hold an international conference on the Bosnian settlement, Kozyrev said "one should first decide on what to speak about", and after that discuss whether this forum would be appropriate.

He noted that the Contact Group members have repeatedly debated a possible composition of such a gathering.

Russia thinks a "G-8" format could be used, although any other number of participants might be good as well. However, some partners in the Contact Group oppose its enlargement for fear that the group will turn into some sort of a discussion club.

Upon reporters' request, Kozyrev briefed them on the situation in Chechnya. He said that constitutional rights of the population are being infringed on this territory, and criminal groups use growing military confrontation to achieve their own purposes.

Speaking at the news conference A. Kozyrev highly commended the work that had been done on the document, which he had been ready to adopt. But literally just two hours previously he had received the communique on the NATO Council session. The first impression was that "it contains more questions than answers."

One gets the impression from this document that a tendency toward quick preparations for an expansion of NATO is discernible in it. A deadline has been set for completing "internal discussion," while no deadlines are specified regarding cooperation in the sphere of "Partnership," which Russia regards as the priority.

Kozyrev highly appreciated NATO's desire, reflected in the communique, to build Europe without dividing lines. "But we need time to clarify the issues which have arisen. We hope to go back to the path of partnership and to adopt these two programs," he said. "We can see no alternative to cooperation with Western democracies and we will try to achieve equal partnership with them," he said.

"We are not happy with NATO being hastily expanded," Kozyrev said. He recalled that Russia does not rule out the possibility that she herself may join NATO but that first of all the partnership stage needs to be fully exhausted.

Willy Claes, who was with Kozyrev, said that the NATO Council has done all it can to explain to Russia that the alliance's intentions and policy are unchanged, and that there are no new aspects in its expansion policy. Internal discussion on the strategy and conditions for expansion is still beginning. It should result in an informatory document which will not contain any answers to the questions of "who" and "where." He expressed hope that the documents have not been rejected and promised to do all he can to clarify NATO's position, giving his assurance that a new meeting will soon be held and the "Russia-NATO" plan will be approved.

Commenting on the Russian minister's statement, diplomatic sources in NATO said that members of the NATO Council are disappointed, because the work to draw up the documents and prepare for today's act of adoption were very thorough and time-consuming, and such unexpected developments could have been avoided.

Kozyrev: Russia To Delay Partnership Program With NATO

LD0112201194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1918 GMT 1 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Mineyev and Aleksey Poroshin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels, 1 Dec—For the time being Russia is refraining from adopting the "NATO-Russia" individual program for partnership since the final communique of NATO's session today contains provisions which need explanation, Andrey Kozyrev, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, said when he arrived at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Russia brought for adoption a 40-page program of cooperation prepared by Russian and NATO experts. The minister thanked all those who took part in this major and rapidly completed work, but said that unfortunately NATO's final communique contains provisions which are unclear. The main point which Russia finds unclear is as follows: Russia understands 'Partnership for Peace' to be the center and axis for the development of future relations with NATO. The communique gives the impression that NATO gives paramount importance to the expansion of the alliance, and not to this cooperation, which is given the role of a subsidiary mechanism for expansion. Russia has to ascertain whether or not NATO is really investing its document with such a meaning.

The minister said that he had spoken with President Yeltsin and this viewpoint had been concurred.

He said that studying the 18-page NATO communique will take time and it is not possible to adopt the program on this occasion. But the document is ready and may be adopted later.

Extra Security Measures Possible If NATO Expands

LD0112180494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Pavel Grachev does not rule out the possibility that, if new members are admitted to NATO, Russia will take additional security measures. He said that Russian military experts in Brussels are currently in the final stage of drafting a Russia-NATO program for the near future. Grachev expressed the hope that the document would be agreed and signed by the end of this year.

Kozyrev Hopes Georgia-Abkhazia Talks Continue

LD0112230494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2033 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has expressed the hope that talks between Georgia and its breakaway province of Abkhazia will continue.

"It must be clear, however, that the basis for such negotiations must remain unchanged: recognition of the territorial integrity of Georgia and simultaneous formulation of a status for Abkhazia," Kozyrev said in Paris on Thursday, answering a question by Interfax.

The minister cited a Russian Government statement saying that recent proclamation of national sovereignty by Abkhazia contradicts efforts to settle the conflict taken by Russia, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations.

Kozyrev: West Should Finance Russia's Peacekeepers

LD0112144094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's foreign minister, indicated that Russia implements all necessary actions to maintain peace on the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States at the request of legal governments and with the consent of all parties involved in the conflict.

"We do not need anybody's permission or mandates, he said at the session of the Western European Union Assembly

(WEU) on Thursday [1 December] in Paris.— However, we need and we urge that the West should render financial aid to the Russian peacekeeping operations."

Kozyrev proposed a wide program of cooperation between Russia and the Western European Union. In his words, Russia, in particular, is ready to organize joint naval maneuvers with the Union to train peacekeeping operations and to establish direct contacts between the Russian company Rosvooruzhenie and appropriate bodies of the WEU.

State Duma Official on Peace Plan for Bosnian Conflict

OW0212061094 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by Toshikazu Seguchi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Lukin, 57, chairman of the Russian State Duma Foreign Affairs Committee (former ambassador to the United States), who is visiting Japan, gave an interview to YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Tokyo on 30 November. He discussed how to deal with the stalemate in the Bosnia-Hercegovina conflict.

Regarding the recent development in which the "Liaison Group," formed by the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and Germany, began to consider amending the peace plan presented to the conflicting parties in the Bosnian conflict during their negotiations with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Lukin sternly criticized the Western nation's "policy change." He said: "The Western nations have always treated Milosevic like a criminal, regarding him the culprit who aggravated the conflict. Now they realize that there is nobody they can turn to except him."

With regard to the amended peace plan including a federation scheme between New Yugoslavia (consisting of Serbia and Montenegro) and Serbian forces in Bosnia, Lukin expressed a positive view, saying: "This should have been deliberated on, while taking into consideration the rights of the minorities, before the conflict had intensified."

Commenting on the discord among Western nations over how to deal with the Bosnian conflict, Lukin said: "Priority should be given to collective diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting and separate the forces. Whether or not Russia can play a constructive role also depends on whether Western nations can agree among themselves." He called for a level-headed approach.

On the NATO forces' intensifying its armed intervention in the Bosnian conflict, Lukin stated: "It is still not realistic for an organization that was formed to challenge the old Warsaw Treaty Organization to find its raison d'etre in intervention in regional conflicts, which it has never experienced in the past. It is useless to do futile things." He indicated that NATO's military intervention does not help resolve the conflict.

Cooperation With WEU Seen as Way to European Peace

LD0112181494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Mikhail Kalmykov, Andrey Krasnoshchekov, Yuriy Lopatin and Aleksey Poroshin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris December 1 TASS—Russia is regarding its cooperation with the Western European Union (WEU) as a perspective means of strengthening peace in Europe, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stressed in his speech at a WEU's parliamentary assembly in Paris today where he was invited by the leadership of this organization.

Such interaction, he said, means not a policy "against" whoever it may be but a policy "in favor"—for the realization of the interests of security of Russia, other European countries and all Russia's Western partners including the United States. However, "the fact remains that we, the Europeans, should take care of ourselves in the first place," the Russian foreign minister stressed.

According to the head of the Russian foreign office, a dialogue between Russia and the Western European Union should be orientated towards a more active search for common approaches to the key problems of security in Europe and neighboring regions.

Addressing parliamentarians of the WEU's countries he emphasised: "You may be sure of a consistent, peaceful and democratic policy of Russia".

Andrey Kozyrev noted with satisfaction that Russian and WEU approaches to the Bosnian crisis were "very close". Russia stands for the settlement of this problem by political means, he said.

It is necessary to give a firm rebuff to any violators of U.N. Security Council resolutions. Sanctions should be applied strictly within the framework of decisions by the Security Council and under its control. Touching on the decision by Belgrade to close the border with Bosnia, the Russian minister spoke for a "stage-by-stage lifting of sanctions against rump Yugoslavia".

Russia and the Western European Union, the top Russian diplomat noted, are sharing a common viewpoint that "lifting of the embargo on arms deliveries to Moslems will only lead to the further escalation of the conflict".

A situation may arise in which the U.N. peacekeeping forces may be withdrawn from Bosnia. Russia, like Britain and France, would pull out its peacekeepers if the arms embargo on Bosnia were lifted and if the situation developed into an uncontrollable escalation of the conflict, Andrey Kozyrev warned.

The foreign minister read out at the session a decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the imposition as of today of three-year moratorium on export of antipersonnel mines not equipped with a mechanism for self-destruction and not to discovered by mine detectors.

According to Andrey Kozyrev, this Russian initiative must make a contribution to the overcoming of tragic consequences of armed conflicts in different parts of the planet.

The head of the Russian foreign office rejected allegations that "Russia was a treat" to Central Europe. At the same time local conflicts on the territory of the Commonwealth [of Independent States] threaten security in Europe. However, Russia carries the burden of its peacekeeping efforts there sometimes alone while always acting with a consent or at a request of legitimate authorities and warring sides.

The assertions about the "legitimacy deficit" of the Russian peacemaking activities are groundless. We do not need anybody's mandates or permissions but are welcoming and demanding outside assistance in peacekeeping efforts, the minister emphasised.

Russia proposes to build a new model of all-European security in which the existing international institutions including the Conference for Security and Coordination in Europe (CSCE), NATO and the Western European Union, would carry out a new mission, Andrey Kozyrev pointed out.

He also proposed establishing joint groups of experts from Russia and the WEU on all problems of European security and conducting thorough consultations on the "architecture" of European security.

Russia, the minister noted, is prepared for practical cooperation with the WEU member states on joint military exercises, providing the WEU on a commercial basis with photographic information transmitted by Russian satellites, as well as using Russian aircraft in a pool formed by the WEU member states within the framework of the treaty "on the open sky".

Russia is ready to start the joint development of the WEU's idea of the "European tactical anti-missile defense" and establish direct contacts between the "Rosvooruzheniye" Russian company and the European group of armaments under the WEU, as well as develop scientific and technical cooperation, Andrey Kozyrev stated.

The foreign minister also proposed creating a Russia-WEU consultative council for coordination of bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

Lukin: Moscow Faces 'Dual' Task in Japanese Relations

LD0112152894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1505 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo December 1 TASS—Russia faces a dual foreign policy task concerning Japan: to establish good, economically rich relations with this country and "to freeze" the territorial problem, Vladimir Lukin, now on a private visit to Tokyo, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

Lukin is chairman of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) committee on international relations. In the legislator's opinion, the first step on this road has already been made, since the nature of bilateral relations has changed in many respects.

There was a dead end in the past, Lukin said, noting that Japan demanded unconditionally the transfer of southern Kurils to it, while the former Soviet Union assured that this problem did not exist.

"We recognise now the existence of the territorial issue, since it is raised by the Japanese side," Lukin continued. "However, we are ready to speak about this in the context of a long perspective, taking into account that accent should be put now on the development of constructive relations.

"Japan does not challenge this, although it does not undertake anything in this respect," Lukin noted.

The situation with Russian public opinion has changed too, he stessed. The question of whether to surrender the islands or not went to the background. "Sure, there are 'hotheads' in the Russian parliament too, who would like to build their careers on cheap populism," Lukin admitted.

"However, any attempt to raise the territorial question another time runs counter to Russia's national interests. We have agreed on an acceptable formula: the question is to be 'frozen', the islands are ours."

In Lukin's opinion, the emerging status quo situation suits Moscow and, evidently, suits Tokyo too. This notwithstanding, Japan "continues ritually to remind" Russia of the existence of the territorial question.

"Therefore, the key question comes now to the fore: can Russia interest Japan in investments? This will fully depend on whether we are able to put things in order at our own house," Lukin stressed.

Foreign Ministry Views Forthcoming CSCE Meeting

LD0112182094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1554 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Yana Polyakova and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—In the focus of a forthcoming Budapest meeting of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) will be the joint development of an integrated, non-discriminatory, and comprehensive model for maintaining security on the CSCE territory, a Russian Foreign Ministry official told briefing on Thursday [1 December]. The Budapest meeting is scheduled for next week.

Nikita Matkovskiy, the ministry's official representative, said the meeting plans to issue the political declaration, a fundamental document to contain assessments of the

European situation and set forth goals for a European security model in the 21st century.

A package of military and political agreements, including a code of conduct of the CSCE party states, will be also submitted for the meeting's approval. The meeting is expected to take specific decisions on such critical issues as human rights, and prevention of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, and anti-semitism.

The Russian diplomacy places large emphasis on the economic trend of CSCE activities which would help consolidate confidence in Europe and develop good-neighbourly relations and mutual understanding, Matkovskiy said.

Minister Saltykov, Iranian Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD0112202194 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 1, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Medhi Safari here today in a meeting with Russian Minister for Scientific and Technological Affairs Boris Georgiyevich [Saltykov], disscussed Iran-Russia scientific and technical relations as well as exchange of experts between the two countries.

In the meeting, Georgiyevich called for a review to be made in an agreement reached in 1971 between the two countries for scientific cooperation.

Georgiyevich underlined the need to expand bilateral cooperation and to establish Russian exhibition in Tehran to acquaint Iranians with the new Russian technical achievements. He also expressed his country's readiness to dispatch Enghlish-language Russian professors to Iranian universities.

Safari welcomed establishment of a Russian exhibition in Tehran and called for deepening of scientific and technical relations between the two countries.

Lukoil Official Denies Failure of Lukoil-Mitsui Accord

LD0212095894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—In a BUSINESS-TASS interview on Friday [2 December], Leonid Fedun, vice-president of Russia's Lukoil petroleum company, denied reports that an agreement on credits between the Lukoil and the Japanese Mitsui had failed.

"Reports about the failure of the agreement are not true to facts. Lukoil is satisfied with the results of the negotiations which were held in Tokyo during the visit of Russia's First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets," Fedun told BUSINESS-TASS.

The signing of a special credit agreement between the Lukoil, on the one hand, and the Mitsui, the Bank of Tokyo Trust, and the Imperial Bank on the other, was the key aspect of the meetings in Japan.

An official representative of the Central Bank of Russia presented a licence to the Lukoil, certifying its right to financial credits-related operations abroad.

Grachev on 'Productive' CIS Defense Ministers' Meeting

LD0112232094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2033 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has estimated the CIS defense ministers' meeting in Moscow Thursday [1 December] as one of the most productive and pointed to the increasing tendency for military and technical integration among CIS states.

According to Grachev, such meetings "gradually developed a single opinion on the need for a CIS collective security system, and Ukraine's nearness to this process is shaping up."

Grachev said the ministers supported the proposal put forward by the commander of the CIS peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, Valeriy Patrikeyev, on granting him extra powers. Now Patrikeyev is entitled to independently decide on using peacekeepers and restructure their command.

The Defense Ministers' Council recommended to propose CIS leaders consider a closer interaction between the peacekeepers and Russian border guards in Tajikistan. According to the proposal, Patrikeyev will be able to command both peacekeepers and border guards in case of a break-up of the border and open military operations.

Speaking on the peacekeeping operation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict area, Grachev said that all participants of the meeting expressed their intention to assist its implementation. "Some plans to render material aid, some financial, while representatives of some states supported sending national military units to Abkhazia." He said Ukrainian representatives made clear that nor did they rule out the possibility to send their peacekeeping unit to the Georgian- Abkhaz conflict area.

Latvian Ratification of Army Withdrawal To 'Normalize' Ties

LD0112160094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—A package of agreements connected with the Russian troop withdrawal ratified by Russia's Federal Assembly and Latvia's Sejm makes it possible to normalise bilateral relations, Nikita Matkovskiy, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, told a briefing on Thursday [1 December]. He said that after the question of social protection for military pensioners and their families residing in Latvia had been resolved in the context of international law it was possible to embark on full-scale negotiations in Vienna about the participation of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in verification of fulfilling agreements on retired military residing in Latvia and on the status of a radar station in Skrunda.

The Russian Foreign Ministry hopes that after the instruments of ratification are exchanged and the package of military agreements goes into effect, the Latvian side will make specific steps to bring the status of the Russian-speaking population in Latvia in accord with generally-recognised norms of international law. This would give an impetus to the development of mutually advantageous relations between the two countries, Matkovskiy said.

Two Turkmen Said Planning Anti-Nizyazov 'Terrorism'

MM0212102394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 1

[IMA-PRESS report under "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Federal Counterintelligence Service Nets Foreign Dissidents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Turkmen journalists—Murad Esenov and Khalmurad Soyunov, who were working for Radio Liberty—were arrested in mysterious circumstances in Moscow 24 and 25 November. Rights campaigner Andrey Mironov reported this at a news conference 30 November. According to him, only a few days later was it possible to find out where they were and that they were being charged with preparing acts of terrorism against Turkmenbashi S. Niyazov. It has come to light that the operation to seize the foreign dissidents was carried out by employees of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, who have long denied this fact.

Moscow Not To Extradite Arrested Turkmen Reporters

LD0212114194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1052 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—Russia is not going to extradite two Turkmen journalists who oppose the regime of President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov if it is not proved that they had committed a crime, according to Alexey Ilyushenko, Russian acting prosecutor general who also recalled that the Russian Constitution does not allow to extradite people persecuted for political convictions.

Murat Esenov, editor-in-chief of the "TURKMON ILI" magazine and Kholmurat Suyunov, the Turkmen correspondent of the "Liberty" radio, were arrested in Moscow late in November upon a request of Turkmen authorities and in compliance with the convention on legal assistance in the CIS signed by President Boris Yeltsin on August 4, 1994.

"The two Turkmen journalists who are known among human rights champions as opponents of Saparmurad Niyazov are kept in 'Lefortovo' (investigation prison) and there is no talk about their extradiction", Ilyushenko told TASS on Friday [2 December].

He added that "a whole delegation" had arrived from Turkmenistan to press for the extradiction of the journalists. "But the office of the Russian prosecutor general is not satisfied with some documents submitted by them. A lawyer will be allowed to see the journalists", Ilyushenko said.

Chernomyrdin, Turkmen Leader Discuss Gas Transit Issue

LD0112222294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had a telephone conversation today with Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Atayavich Niyazov. Chernomyrdin's call was in regards to the gas situation: transit of Turkmen gas through the Transcaucasus republics to Ukraine. Ashgabat has halted gas deliveries to these countries because of an exacerbation of the nonpayments issue.

Tatarstan, Ukraine Form Joint Oil Company

LD0212115994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1103 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kazan December 2 TASS—Ukrainian and Tatarstan governments agreed to form a joint financial-and-industrial company called Ukrtatnafta.

The partners have equal shares in the joint-stock company's charter capital.

Tatarstan is represented by several oil deposits which will deliver up to eight million tonnes of sulphurous oil to Kremenchug annually. Besides, Tatarstan-based

Nizhnekamskneftekhim joint-stock company will supply raw rubber to Ukrainian tyre-producers.

Ukrainian partners include the Kremenchug oil refinery, Odessa oil terminal and a tyre-producing plant in Byelotserkovsk.

According to Tatarstan's government, the new company will enable Tatarstan to preserve its oil markets, ensure oil exports through the Odessa port and invest money in development of oil deposits and in construction of surface facilities.

Political Issues

'Third Force' Union Favors USSR's Return

LD0112190594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1—Immediate steps are required to reintegrate the former Soviet republics, a news conference was told today by leaders of socio-political blocs converging into a "Third Force" union. This cluster comprises the "Civil Union" bloc, with Arkadiy Volskiy among its leaders, the Majority Party led by Vyacheslav Grechnev and the Pan-Russian Union "Renaissance" chaired by Viktor Mironenko and Igor Smirnov. The Agro-industrial Union has recently joined the "Third Force." Volskiy said the "Third Force" union plans to hold, in end-December in Moscow, a congress of delegates from Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Russia. The conference is to discuss economic, political and military reintegration of the former Soviet Union.

According to the blocs' leaders, the ex-Soviet republics might be reunited through a CIS referendum. The "Third Force" is sure the outcome of it will be in favor of the USSR's comeback. The leaders said the results of March 1991 referendum on the Soviet Union's fate might recur today, since "about 70 percent of the population wants the restoration of the integral political, economic and defense space in the territory of the former USSR." The news conference was told that the reintegration was advocated by those employed in the industrial and agricultural sectors, small and medium-size business and by the military.

Volskiy said he would meet CIS' heads of state before the end of the next week. He said his first meeting would be with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

RCWP on Early Elections, Anpilov's Candidacy

MK0112141094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Mitrofanov: "MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS Has Spoiled Anpilov's Plans. The RCWP Leader Is Going To 'Win the Street' That Raised Him"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Working Russia, headed by Viktor Anpilov, and the Russian Communist Workers Party [RCWP] Moscow organization have, according to their leader, "been brought to the limit of their patience." The rally of Moscow communists/radicals, which took place a few days ago, ruled to work for an early election of Anpilov as Russian president and prepare an all-Russian strike.

The revolutionary storm will be facilitated by events planned for December: "a march in memory of Stalin," and a procession by "Soviet women" under red banners and holding saucepans.

Unlike parliamentary party faction leaders, Viktor Anpilov hopes to "win in the street:" "In squares and lanes we have no match!" "My task is to raise the masses in Moscow," the communist leader explained. Then the metropolitan revolution will be supported by central Russia, and the army "will be set in motion." Yeltsin will then have only one hope left: for "foreign bayonets." However, Anpilov assured, the revolutionaries will not be "satisfied" with either Moscow or Russia: "People of labor must have the whole world!"

Anpilov's closest associate, Boris Khorev, revealed to journalists that Working Russia's minimum program envisions "revolutionary measures" with respect to those who "are dividing property." Even so the communist says there is no reason for concern: "Restitution of what has been stolen does not mean a civil war."

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS' correspondent inadvertently angered Viktor Ivanovich, asking an apparently indecent question: Why has he been overthrowing the "anti-national regime" for several years now but has not succeeded in actually overthrowing it? Revolutionary Anpilov declared that the "business of overthrowing the regime is being hampered" by the existence of MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, whose 1.5 million circulation is being paid for by... Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev.

Prosecutor on Removal of Zhirinovskiy Immunity

LD0212123194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1130 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—Russian Acting Prosecutor General Aleksey Ilyushenko called on the State Duma to strip nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy of immunity so that he can be held responsible for his book "The Last Leap to the South" which is assessed as an appeal for war. Zhirinovskiy says in the book, among other things, that he dreams of the time when Russian soldiers would wash their boots in the Indian Ocean.

Ilyushenko told TASS on Friday that his office had already twice submitted corresponding requests to the State Duma, but received no response. "Such a position of the parliament makes one think about the observance by the State Duma of the principle of equality of all citizens before the law", he stressed and called on the lower chamber to "cooperate" in the issue.

Ilyushenko also said that local prosecutors in Russia were instructed to "reexamine" the materials accumulated while investigating the propaganda of fascist ideas in order to bring those involved to responsibility.

Yeltsin Establishes Chechen Cossack Council

LD0212094494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0837 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—On the eve of the meeting, which Russian minister for nationalities and the president's envoy in the Chechen Republic Nikolay Yegorov is to have with Russian Cossacks at Yessentuki on Saturday, President Yeltsin issued a decree to set up a council for Cossack affairs—a consultative body under the president. The decree approves the statute of the new body.

The council, the presidential press service reports, will be a consultative body under the president. Its purpose is to inform the head of the Russian state on problems linked with the revival of Russian Cossacks and the unification of Cossack communities. It will also draw up proposals concerning the Russian state's policy vis-a-vis the Cossack.

The decree also endorses the composition of the council for Cossack affairs. Russian minister for nationalities and for regional policy Nikolay Yegorov was appointed chairman of the council. He was asked to submit to President Yeltsin a list of candidates to the council agreed with the all-Russia (unifying) Cossack conference.

As earlier reported, Yegorov is currently visiting the northern Caucasus. He plans to attend the Yessentuki meeting of the council of chieftains of the union of Russia Cossacks.

Yegorov is former head of the Krasnodar territorial administration and he is well aware of the moods of Russian Cossacks.

Grachev Prepares To Resolve Chechen Conflict

LD0112192494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 1 Dec 94

[Video report on news conference by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in Moscow on 1 December, from the "Vesti" newscast; passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said today that the president has not set him the task of establishing a state of emergency regime in Chechnya. At the same time, the secretariat of the chairman of the State Duma committee on defense said that reports of the transfer of Russian military units to the territory of Chechnya do not correspond to reality. Pavel Grachev noted, however, that if the task were set of imposing a state of emergency, the necessary forces and resources would be found to implement it.

[Grachev] "I will tell you: If the army does take part in resolving this conflict, it does not mean that the army will fight against the Chechen people."

[Correspondent] For the Russian Armed Forces to take part in the Chechen conflict, there must be a presidential edict and a decision by the Security Council, Pavel Grachev stressed.

[Grachev] "Illegal armed formations have now been set up on the territory of the Chechen Republic which are not provided for by a single Russian law, and certainly not by the Constitution."

[Correspondent] According to the defense minister, if troops are used, it will only be to render aid to interior troops in disarming illegal formations. Pavel Grachev promised to hold a special investigation into every case of involvement of Russian Army servicemen in the hostilities as mercenaries. Official structures are not involved in this, the defense minister believes.

[Grachev] "Neither the defense minister nor the General Staff has given the order for this."

[Correspondent] Grachev believes that profit is the main motive behind the participation of Russian soldiers in the Russian-Chechen conflict.

[Grachev] "Well, they promised one or two million to a soldier. There he is, a fresh-faced soldier, a tank crewman, he is discharged—well, of course, some agreed, and clearly many did not agree."

Grachev, Dudayev Agree on 'Hostages'

MM0112160494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Burbyga: "Dudayev Promises Grachev Not To Touch the Prisoners"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to IZVESTIYA's information, in the afternoon of 30 November the question of the inviolability of the Russian servicemen being held captive in Groznyy was dealt with at the Russian Defense Ministry. At approximately 1300 hours Pavel Grachev, on his own initiative, called Dzhokhar Dudayev, whereupon they discussed the fate of the Russian officers and warrant officers whom the Defense Ministry regards not as prisoners but hostages in Chechnya.

The content of the conversation between Pavel Grachev and Dzhokhar Dudayev, who once used to serve in the same army, is not known to the editorial office. However, information from reliable sources allows us to state accurately: The conversation lasted approximately eight minutes, and during that time an accord was reached on the unconditional inviolability of Russian citizens seized in Chechnya during the military operation.

What was happening in Groznyy at the time of this telephone conversation is also known. IZVESTIYA's informers report that tactical fighters with no identification marks were flying over the district where close relatives of the president of Chechnya live, at low altitude but at great speed and with a terrifying noise.

That same night the territory adjacent to the aforesaid district was lit up by illumination flares.

On 1 December the defense minister told IZVESTIYA in an exclusive interview that he has issued instructions for all Russian volunteers in the ranks of the Chechen opposition to be identified, assembled in Mozdok, and disarmed. A plane will be sent for them.

As for the 28 officers and warrant officers being held under guard in Groznyy, energetic efforts to secure their release are under way through the appropriate organs. The minister has no doubt that they will all come home alive and well in the very near future.

Dudayev Warns Kremlin of 'World War III'

BR0212094894 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 2 Dec 94 p 20

[Interview with Chechen President General Dudayev by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Dudayev: 'I Will Not Surrender'"—first paragraph is LA REPUBBLICA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—On the day before, as the Russian Army mustered troops and weapons along the Chechen border, and as, between bombardments, Groznyy awaited the big push with bated breath, General Dudayev issued the following warning to the Kremlin and the world: "I say to you, with all the authority that I possess, that this will not be the second Caucasian War but World War III."

[LA REPUBBLICA] General Dudayev, do you really think you can stand up to the Russian Army?

[Dudayev] Volunteers are arriving now from Dagestan, from... from every corner of the Caucasus. The mojahidin are arriving, and thousands of men in the villages and the mountains are forming their own battalions. They are not soldiers of my army, and they are not answerable to me personally. They are answerable only to Allah, and nobody can stop them until their desire for revenge has been satisfied. Do not be under any illusions: The war that they are preparing to wage will take place on Russian territory.

[LA REPUBBLICA] Officially, all the attacks and bombardments that Chechnya has suffered hitherto were caused by the internal opposition, in a kind of civil war. Why are you blaming Russia?

[Dudayev] As you are well aware, it is not the opposition that is mounting the attacks, but Russia. The bombardments have been going on for days here. All I know is that last week some 150 armored vehicles, including 67 tanks, were brought to the vicinity of Groznyy. We succeeded in halting the attack, in destroying much of the equipment, and in taking hostages from among the Russian—I repeat, Russian—troops.

[LA REPUBBLICA] What will happen to them?

[Dudayev] I am doing all I can to ensure their safety. I even gave orders for them to be taken away from Groznyy, to a safe place, so that they are not killed by some bomb. Somebody must have discovered this, however, because the moment the troops arrived here the bombardments began. That suggests that not everybody wants to see them arrive safe and sound so that they can recount what happened.

[LA REPUBBLICA] Defense Minister Grachev swears that there were no Russian troops in Chechnya. Are you really so sure about that?

[Dudayev] What do you mean, am I sure? Of course, I am sure. Unlike me, the Russian military leaders, the Russian generals, do not care much about what happens to their troops. It is said that they have already established military courts to try captured soldiers. But the prisoners are in no hurry to return home: They are afraid of the Russian secret services.

[LA REPUBBLICA] What are you doing right now? How are you preparing for the attack?

[Dudayev] We have informed the UN Security Council of what is happening. Apart from that, we are restoring order to the city after the latest attack by the fighter planes.

[LA REPUBBLICA] You think there is no further chance of a peaceful settlement.

[Dudayev] Hope is always the last to die. I am trying to control the situation, to restrain all the combatants. But obviouszly things cannot continue this way for long. As far as the negotiations are concerned, Yeltsin refuses to talk on the phone.

Economic Issues

Military Industry Looks To Civilian Applications

LD0112184694

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0912 GMT on 1 December 94 devotes part of its "Business Russia" program to a 20-minute feature by correspondent Aleksandr Akopov about conversion in the Russian military industrial-complex and its skill in developing high technology which now can find various applications in civilian life.

Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the state committee for military branches of industry, says the committee aims to set up a marketing center to study the internal and foreign market and the potentialities of the military-industrial complex itself.

Akopov then says that in 1994 the situation in the military-industrial complex has become critical, with the volume of arms and military hardware production amounting only to 6 percent of what it was in 1991.

An unidentified speaker then says that the 1994 defense budget amounted to 40.6 trillion rubles, though it is difficult to say how much of it goes to the military-industrial complex.

A representative of the military-industrial complex trade unions adds that the military-industrial complex received state orders last December, but in the first quarter of 1994 the government cut military-industrial complex financing by over 60 percent. A power struggle at every level has pushed back such national priorities as defense, industrial development, and science. Meanwhile, 95 percent of the plants that made armaments have been closed down. Designing is not financed.

Akopov presents facts and figures to illustrate this point: the fall in the output of television sets made by the military- industrial complex enterprises during the last two years, and the 10-fold drop in production at aircraft factories. In the radio industry output decreased about 15-fold, and in electronics about 20-fold. Only 30 percent of all the armaments of the Russian Army are modern, whereas for Western countries this figure is 70 percent.

Akopov says that one way of overcoming this situation is setting up financial-industrial groups, and gives the following examples:

- The famous Alekseyev Design Bureau has developed unique military and wing-in-ground planes [ekranoplany] with the financial backing of the private company GermesSoyuz.

- The Moscow plant belonging to the Scientific Research Institute of Instrument Engineering has developed a control system for power generators on the basis of a control system for aircraft engines, and makes these generators from discarded equipment. They work in any climate and are very reliable.

- The same research institute makes an appliance called an attitude indicator [inklinometer], which was formerly used in the orientation system of rockets and is now used for high-precision oil drilling.

- The military-industrial complex has also made drying equipment for printing works, which is much cheaper than foreign equipment.

- The Chkalov aircraft production association in Novosibirsk, which used to make military aircraft, has built the civilian AN-38 aircraft, which is very convenient for internal flights and has aroused the interest of the U.S. mail transportation company Federal Express.

Akopov says that cosmonautics in Russia is on the brink of collapse, so it has to find outlets for its products in other spheres. Thus, the Scientific and Production Association Komposit has started applying new materials it has developed to traumatology and orthopedics, making prostheses from extra-hard titanium and using zirconium composite materials to make plates for orthosynthesis.

During the program, the video shows military hardware, ships, shops of military factories and plants, planes taking off from an aircraft carrier and refueling in mid-air, a plane apparently crash- landing, laboratory and computer equipment, a drilling site with equipment, drying equipment for printing houses, combat planes in flight, a plane being stripped down, a rocket launching, a space flight control room, patients being operated on in a hospital and metal prostheses and plates.

Moscow Exhibition Opens

LD0112165794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—The fifth jubilee show Conversion-94 ("engineering—conversion—market") opened at the all-Russia exhibition centre here on Thursday. It has been arranged on the initiative of the Russian state committee for the defence industry, the Russian space agency, the Ministry of Nuclear Power Engineering, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Moscow administration.

Deputy head of the Russian state committee for the defence industry Gennadiy Voronin told a press-conference held on the occasion of the opening of the show that more than one thousand technologies covering almost all economic sectors would be represented at the exhibition.

According to Voronin, the funds allocated by the Russian Finance Ministry for the state conversion programme can meet only from ten to thirty percent of the needs of the Russian military-indistrial complex. Support of investment funds for defence enterprises could allow to settle many conversion problems in the near future, he said. The committee for the defence industry has prepared almost 2000 investment projects, Voronin added.

It was noted at the press-conference that almost 200 defence enterprises, investment funds, insurance and trading companies and Russian major banks were participating in the show. They plan to establish mutually beneficial ties, define markets in Russia and abroad and attract investments for new projects.

A conference "The Russian Military-Industrial Complex for Business World" will be held within the framework of the show which will last until December 6. The show programme will also include meetings with Russian and foreign businessmen, scholars and public figures.

Central Bank Sets Cash Transaction Limit

LD0112203594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1337 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Dec (BUSINESS-TASS)—The maximum size of transactions involving cash between juridical persons in the Russian Federation has been set at 2 million rubles per payment. All transactions involving larger sums will now be carried out only in a noncash form. According to the Russian

Central Bank, this regulation has been introduced in connection with a government decision on 17 November.

Yeltsin Aide Makes Draft Budget 'Conclusions'

MM0112155394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Nov 94 p 13

[Commentary by Dr. of Economic Sciences David Shavishvili, Member of the Russian President's Social Policy Council: "The Social Sphere May Be Reduced to Starvation Rations: Expert Analysis of the Draft Law on the Federal Budget for 1995"—from the EKSPERTIZA section]

[FBIS Translated Text] An analysis of the 1995 draft federal budget makes it possible to draw the following main conclusions: The move toward overt mass unemployment is predetermined, the material and technical basis of the social sphere is going to collapse completely, the main minimum social guarantees will not be ensured, tax policy will remove workers' motivation for productive labor, and the consolidation of extrabudgetary funds in the budget will lead to the utilization of resources not as directly intended.

The Specter of Mass Unemployment

The main budget indicators have been designed for the conditions of the transition of the economy to overt mass unemployment. For the first time in recent years the government envisages that wages will rise faster than the rate of inflation.

For example, according to the forecast for socioeconomic development in 1995 the wage fund is set to rise by 60 percent and inflation by 30 percent. However, such a jump in real wages will be possible only if workers are discharged on a massive scale because in 1995 it is envisaged that GDP will fall by a further 6-8 percent.

This will inevitably mean that at least 8 million people will lose their jobs and that unemployment will cease to be hidden and will become overt.

The employment fund, according to the most optimistic forecasts, could be 5.4 trillion rubles [R] next year. After deducting the cost of maintaining the fund's apparatus that figure will be R4.1 trillion.

In these conditions the unemployment benefit will not exceed R45,000 a month as against a subsistence minimum of the order of R150,000. It should be noted that the size of the allowance will determine the living standard of a considerable proportion of the active population. The consequences will be far more serious than the delays in the payment of wages.

Incomes in Jeopardy

There is insufficient reason to believe that the economic slump will slow down next year. According to the expert assessment of the Council for Social Policy, GDP in 1995 (in comparable prices) will be 76.2 percent of the 1994 level and will be down to 44 percent of the 1991 level.

The revenue section of the budget and tax receipts will be extremely unstable if there is a repetition of the situation that occurred in tax collection in the first nine months of this year (just 37.7 percent of the planned figure has been received).

The forecast that the rate of inflation will slow down to 0.5-1 percent a month by the end of 1995 is very dubious.

The archaic structure of production oriented toward the raw materials sectors and the constant "injections" in agriculture, defense, and so forth predetermine the inefficient structures of the national economy. To ensure the supply of hard currency revenue from foreign trade there will have to be a constant reduction in the ruble exchange rate, which will inevitably lead to a general rise in prices and spiralling inflation. However, the draft budget does not provide for major structural transformations in the economy.

The orientation toward substantial foreign loans, which the budget architects are trying to use to replace Central Bank credits to the government, also poses a certain threat.

The forecast growth in federal budget receipts is R24 trillion. However, it is planned that over 17 percent of that will come from the introduction of a federal rate of income tax on individuals. It is planned that additional revenue will come from increased excise duty on liqueurs, vodka, and automobiles.

Taxes levied on the Population

It is planned to ease the tax pressure on citizens on low incomes, increase taxation on average income earners, and raise the maximum tax rate for high income earners. That is the draft's intention.

In fact, however, the basic rate of tax for citizens on low incomes will be at the present 12 percent while that on those with very high incomes will be 35 percent. In other words, all that we are looking at is a relative and not absolute reduction in taxation on citizens on low incomes.

In the opinion of the Social Policy Council's experts, it is necessary to exempt entirely from taxation those citizens whose pay is up to three times the minimum wage (in July 1994 this was slightly over 50 percent of the subsistence minimum).

Preferential taxation (less than 12 percent) should also be introduced for those whose money incomes are below the subsistence minimum and a rate of 12 percent should be levied from those whose incomes vary between the subsistence minimum and the average wage.

A Single Social Payment Is Needed

The draft speaks of the need for the consolidation of extrabudgetary funds—the social and medical insurance and employment funds—in the budget.

A "centralization" of this kind is fraught with far-reaching consequences and is contrary to the interests of the reform of the social sphere and its adaptation to market economy conditions.

Furthermore, the complicated system of payments is reinforced even though those payments have a single revenue base [raschetnaya baza]—the labor remuneration fund. To reduce the number of taxes and payments, cut bureaucracy and red tape, and reduce the cost of collection it is expedient to amalgamate these contributions into a single social payment which would then be divided among the various funds according to legally enshrined normatives.

It is necessary to introduce the principle of "one tax—one payment," a principle generally recognized in world practice.

Punishing the Law-Abiding

In an overall assessment of the tax reform proposed by the draft budget the following should be noted.

The reduction in the total number of taxes is insignificant, in other words, the unwieldiness of the system itself is not being eliminated. The old format of setting, levying, and paying taxes is being preserved (with a certain strengthening of sanctions on nonpayers). This will be a further incentive to the proliferation of superfluous paperwork in the economy, will slow down general money circulation, and increase the cost of the tax collection system and the maintenance of the taxation organs.

As an alternative there could be a system in which taxes are paid to the federal, regional, and local budgets in accordance with the legally established normatives.

The draft contains tough sanctions for nonpayment of taxes. It is clear, however, that there may be different reasons for nonpayment—from simple mathematical error to varying interpretations of the normative documents.

The proposed sanctions will be aimed primarily at law-abiding tax payers and will have no effect on those who make extensive efforts to conceal the taxable sources by making big transactions in cash.

"Illegal" payments in cash have become widespread primarily because of the inordinately high rates of tax and are a consequence of the emergence in the economy of a parallel "shadow" form of money circulation not controlled by the state. Payments in cash are undoubtedly one of the main reasons for the colossal shortfall in revenue to the state budget including revenue for social needs.

In addition, a practice has developed recently in which the financial organs' normative documents have been obliging tax payers to "split" their taxes among the federal, regional, and local budgets. As a result an enterprise is forced to fill out several payment documents when paying a single tax.

On a national scale this has led to the vast and unwarranted expansion of paperwork and has increased the cost of running the system. To eliminate this situation the taxation and financial services should themselves be obliged to allocate tax revenue among budgets and recipients. At the same time it is necessary to step up the monitoring of contribution payments.

"Starvation Diet" Prescribed for The Social Sphere

The draft budget's considerable shortcomings are connected with the policy of funding the social sphere. The main shortcoming is the absence of clearly defined priorities. Although priorities were outlined in the 1994 budget, they have not been implemented.

Meanwhile, one of the main priorities is the funding of the social sphere at the level of the minimum social guarantees ensured from the federal budget's resources.

An analysis of this area of the draft enables the conclusion to be drawn that the structure of spending on social needs developed in recent years will be fully retained in 1995. However, the socioeconomic situation means that a major adjustment is needed.

This relates primarily to the introduction of needs allowances and the reform of the financing of the social sphere of the components of the Federation and the organs of local self-government.

Even though we have not yet reached the end of 1994, the actual performance of the budget may be only 50-60 percent of the planned level for certain items of social sphere funding. It may be presumed with a large degree of probability that the same fate awaits these items of expenditure in the 1995 budget.

The trend toward the decentralization of social spending is being consolidated. Put more simply, the burden of spending on the social sphere is being shifted to the local budgets. Consequently the local organs of power will bear the responsibility for the efficient functioning of the social sphere at a time of limited financial potential because of the existing and planned distribution of taxes.

This enables the clear conclusion to be drawn that the financial normatives on which the budget is based will not be sufficient to ensure the stabilization of the funding of the social sphere with all the attendant socioeconomic and political consequences and that they therefore need radical reworking.

Performance of the Social Sphere Budget in the First Nine Months of This Year

	1994 Budget	9-month Budget	Financed Jan-Sep 1994	Percentage Fulfilled
Sociocultural				
Measures (total)	14321.58	9051.62	6458.88	45.1
Including:				
Education	7153.02	4555.61	3472.71	48.55
Culture, Art, and the Mass Media	2247.11	1333.62	869.49	39.90
Health Care and Physical Culture	3880.33	2466.75	1503.62	38.75
Science	4946.11	3101.36	1855.91	37.52

[Units in columns 2-4 not given]

Chubays Notes Increase in Personal Savings'

LD0112161294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The money kept by Russia's population in the Savings Bank increased from 5 trillion to 20 trillion rubles in the 10 months from January to November, First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said.

This became possible because inflation went down from 24 percent at the beginning of the year to between 4 and 5 percent in August, Chubays told business people in Novosibirsk.

He said Russian citizens are the main potential investors of capital in the country's economy. "People do have money and are ready to invest it—in amounts that the federal treasury couldn't even dream of," he said. Just one company, he went on, through widely advertising itself in the media, "manages to draw from the population about 6 billion rubles a day, including Saturdays and Sundays."

According to Chubays, it is one of the government's priorities for 1995 "to create conditions to oust various kinds of dubious investment companies onto the fringes of the money market." "Our citizens must be stimulated to buy shares in serious industrial enterprises instead of any tickets or any other 'advertised products,'" the deputy premier said.

But this can only be achieved by curbing inflation to 1 or 2 percent a month, which will be possible if parliament passes the draft budget for next year proposed by the government, he said.

Unemployment Remains an 'Acute' Problem

MM0112154994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 30 Nov 94 pp 1-2

[Report by TRUD Political Observer Vitaliy Golovachev: "New Shock: Unemployment. Five Million Russians Cannot Find Jobs Today"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In the Republic of Komi, 26,500 unemployed people were officially registered as of 1 October, and there were only 5,500 job vacancies. That is an average of five people for every job. It is, though, **the same throughout the country**.

The unemployment problem is becoming increasingly acute in Russia. A report just in from the State Committee for Statistics does not ease our alarm: Taking into account people who are employed part-time in production, as of 1 November, the overall unemployment potential constituted **9.7 million people—13 percent of the economically active population**. According to the forecast of the Russian Federation Government Economic Situation Center, over 7 million Russians (10 percent) will find themselves without any work by the end of the year. This percentage indicator is greater than in the United States, never mind Germany and Japan. In terms of the level of unemployment Russia is catching up with Poland. And the most depressing thing is that this is just the beginning.

Admittedly, the State Employment Service provides completely different figures: As of 1 November there were 1.75 million "unoccupied" citizens, including 1.47 million with unemployed status. But at the same time the Russians who have no job but who are actively seeking one without the help of the employment office are not taken into account. According to International Labor Organization methodology, these people are classified as unemployed. There are 4.9 million of them in all. And there are also almost as many (4.8 million) who have been forced to work incomplete weeks or have been on leave without pay (or with partial pay). Tomorrow a lot of them will become the "official" unemployed. So that makes almost 10 million people. But if we ignore "hidden" unemployment and only take those who do not have any work at all, then it works out that **one Russian in 15** (with respect to the economically active population) has found himself "superfluous" in our country. Of course, the figure of 1.5 million "official" unemployed (which is not that small either, as it happens) looks far more tolerable, but the real acuteness of the problem is not reduced as a result of this paper decoration.

"...After dinner I send my daughter to bed, then I telephone my friends and acquaintances to see if they know where I can find a job in my profession. Of course I have been to the employment office. The last time was 10 November. They told me that I need not bother them before 27 December. Apparently if some kind of suitable vacancy comes up (there is not much hope of that), they will call me themselves."

"Never mind the employment office—I have pestered everyone! For example, I have been to the 'Komineft' and 'Severgazprom' Associations.... But cuts are being made everywhere, just like in our associations. They say that specialists in petroleum and gas prospecting are not needed today. Not needed! I do not understand what is happening: Petroleum and gas extraction in Komi is falling (by 29-22 percent in the first 10 months of this year as compared with 1993), yet prospecting is being curtailed...."

"In the afternoon I take Katya to the therapeutic mudbaths. People are going home from work. Sometimes I meet people I know...."

The tide of unemployment is inexorably sweeping over us. In the past 10 months alone 2.62 million people, of whom almost 2 million have received unemployed status, have registered with the employment services. This is a lot more than in the analogous period of last year. Admittedly, 867,000 citizens have been given work. But a lot of them wander about with nothing to do for six or eight months.... And ahead lies a second shock, the shock of bankruptcy and mass unemployment. It seems that everything is already in place for this.

One-fourth of workers in enterprises and organizations in industry, construction, transportation, communications, science, and scientific servicing have been "enjoying themselves" on enforced vacations this year, while 16 percent of workers have been transferred to a reduced work regime. That is the potential reserve of the new wave of the unemployed. Incidentally, the total **length of administrative leave has amounted to 57 million man-days in the last nine months.** This is a huge number. According to the assessment of the Economic Situation Center, by the middle **of this year, hidden unemployment had already enveloped around 8 million Russians.**

This hitherto invisible flame is constantly coming vividly to light. In the first three quarters of 1994 900,000 people were dismissed in connection with staff cuts. And in this period **10.9 million people** (or one in five) **have left jobs** with enterprises and organizations for various reasons, while **8.1 million have been taken on.** Enterprises and organizations intend **to dismiss another 300,000 workers in the present, fourth quarter.** As we can see, the calculations are running into hundreds of thousands and millions of people, although the period of mass enterprise bankruptcies has not yet started. So what scale of unemployment awaits us tomorrow?

In Ivanovo Oblast 57,000 people are already looking for work. At the same time the number of announced vacancies is only 948. One person in 12 here is "officially" unemployed. And if we also include people who are not working full time, the picture becomes really depressing. There is also a high level of unemployment today in the Ingush Republic and Yaroslavl, Pskov, Kostroma, Kirov, and Vladimir Oblasts.... It is also a bad thing that the scale of long-term unemployment is growing. At the beginning of last year it amounted to three months, now it is six. [passage omitted]

The forecast of the State Employment Service for this year has not come true: They thought that by the end of 1994 there would be 4 million "officially" unemployed people, but in actual fact it seems there will be 2 million. The employment specialists believed that the reforms would be tougher, that enterprise bankruptcies would occur earlier, and that hidden unemployment would be transformed into open unemployment. It's a good thing that the State Employment Service is looking to the worst-case scenario. But after all, the prospect of unemployment on a greater scale has only been put off for a while. And this means that we should tackle this most acute problem with increasing energy. [passage omitted]

EBRD Finances Various Industrial Projects

LD0112135394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1152 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The European Bank for the Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) approved on Wednesday [30 November] the financing of 37 Russian projects in various industries to the sum of $1.3 billion, EBRD Director in Charge of Russia, Belarus and Tajikistan Oleg Preksin told the Financial Information Agency.

Preksin said that the EBRD had outlined priority directions for its relations with Russia. It will aid development of enterprises, support the financial sector, help the development of energy resources and support important infrastructure projects. The EBRD's Board of Directors has also chosen regions for priority financing: St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Vladivostok and the Krasnodar Territory.

Preksin said that the choice of priority projects in Russia was conditioned by the EBRD's limited funds and possibilities.

He said that with the credits from other participants in the above projects, World Bank among them, counted, the total sum will amount to $3.4 billion. Credits are usually offered for a period of five-seven years LIBOR + 1 percent.

Recent Data Shows High, Slower Inflation

MM0112134794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Nov 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report based on Center for the Economic Situation Under the Russian Federation Government data: "Prices for the Week 15-22 November. But There is Cheap Gasoline Somewhere"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the fact that inflation was slower last week than in the first week of November, it remained rather high and was 3.3 percent compared with 4.2 in the first week of the month and 3.2 in the previous week. Food was 4 percent dearer, nonfood commodities were 3.2 percent dearer, and consumer services were 1.4 percent dearer. On the basis of the current rate at which prices are changing, inflation is likely to be 13-14 percent in November.

Feasting Over, Time To Fast

In Moscow and St. Petersburg consumer prices for goods and services rose much more quickly than the Russian average.

Of the types of food surveyed, butter, dairy products, and vegetables again saw rapid price rises. The price of butter went up by 16 percent, vegetables by 6 percent, and dairy products, groats, and pasta by 5 percent. The prices of fish, vegetable oil, eggs, confectionery, and fruit rose by nearly 4 percent. Since the beginning of the month the price of butter has risen at a record rate of nearly 50 percent; dairy products have gone up by 20 percent; and eggs, vegetables, and fruit by 17 percent.

Changes in food prices last week varied from economic region to economic region. The biggest food price increases were in the Volga-Vyatka region, where prices of milk and butter rose by 16-17 percent and prices of vegetables and fruit by 8-9 percent. The smallest food price rises were in the North and East Siberia regions—2.8 and 2.9 percent, respectively.

The average cost of the monthly shopping basket of 19 major foodstuffs as of 22 November was 84,000 rubles [R], a rise in the weekly figure of 13.3 percent since the beginning of the month and 2.7 times since the beginning of the year. At organized trade prices the basket cost R82,000; at free market prices it was R107,000

The Far East region was still the most expensive (the basket cost R147,000). The "cheapest" was the Volga region, where it cost R64,000.

In Moscow and St. Petersburg the cost of the basket was R97,000 and R91,000, respectively. Moscow was still 24th in the list of cities surveyed, while St. Petersburg moved from 35th to 34th.

Get Sandals Ready in Winter and the Refrigerator in Summer

Of the nonfood commodities surveyed, last week saw marked increases in the prices of certain types of medicines (by 8.3 percent) and refrigerators (by 6 percent). Summer footwear for children and adults, not surprisingly, and tobacco products showed practically no price change—1-2 percent at most.

Over the past three weeks Moscow has recorded the top gasoline price in Russia of R1,040 per liter, which is 2.3 times more than at the beginning of the month; the lowest price in Russia is R255 (4.1 times less than in Moscow, and the average is R446. The greatest variation in gasoline prices was in the Central region (3.6 times).

Crops Grow Despite Early Winter

MM0112170194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 7

[Report by Tamara Maksimenkova, chief specialist of the Agrometeorological Forecasts Department of the Russian Hydrometerological Center, under "Agrometeorological Forecast" rubric: "Winter Crops Are Overwintering Safely"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cold weather was observed on Russia's European territory for most of November. The average daily air temperature almost everywhere was 2-5 degrees below the long-term average, while on individual days it was 7 or 8 degrees below the norm. Even in the North Caucasus the minimum air temperature reached minus 7 to minus 11 degrees, and in more northerly regions minus 17 to minus 27.

At the start of the month the maximum air temperature in the south of the Central, Volgo-Vyatka, and Ural Regions and also in the north of the Central Chernozem Region and in the Middle Volga Region rose to plus 10-14 degrees, and winter crops were observed to be vegetating. Then the temperature dropped, and their growth ceased. Vegetation was not noted at the start of the last third of November either, when there was a significant temperature rise in these and more northerly regions. The maximum air temperature was within the range of 2-4 degrees.

By the time vegetation ceased, the state of plants in the aforementioned regions was mainly good and satisfactory (on 90-95 percent of the crop area). The crops' bushiness chiefly stood at two or three shoots per plant. The topsoil mostly contained 30-40 mm of productive moisture.

Over most of the territory of the North Caucasus Region and in the southern half of the Volga Region the maximum air temperature at the start of the month rose to 17-23 degrees, and winter grain crops were growing. But here the plants' supply of moisture was inadequate and in places bad. Here the winter crops were mainly in the shooting and third-leaf phases. Over part of the areas the winter crops did not come up. The topsoil primarily contained 10-12 mm and in places less than 10 mm of productive moisture, which is insufficient for winter crops to sprout.

The rain that fell here in the second third of November (40-60 mm) significantly replenished the reserves of productive moisture.

But there was insufficient warmth for winter crops to put out shoots during that period. There was a drop in temperature at the end of the month here too. Winter crops stopped vegetating at times close to normal.

In the Northern Region and in the north of the Central, Volgo-Vyatka, and Ural Regions a winter weather regime was observed for most of the month, and winter crops were in a dormant state beneath the snow cover. By the end of the month the depth of the snow cover in the northeast of the European part of Russia stood mainly at 15-25 cm, and at 5-10 cm in western and southwestern regions. The minimum soil temperature at the winter crops' tillering node depth stayed within the range of 3-5 degrees. Conditions were satisfactory for the crops to start wintering.

In the southern half of the European part of Russia there was no snow cover in the fields at times of a drop in temperature, or its depth did not exceed 5 cm.

At these times the minimum soil temperature at the winter crops' tillering node depth (approximately 3 cm) stayed within the range of minus 2 to minus 5 degrees, while in places it fell to minus 10 to minus 11 degrees—which was not dangerous for the crops.

In West Siberia the weather was wintery for much of the month and winter crops were in a state of dormancy. Snow cover in fields sown to winter crops was predominantly 10-15 cm deep by the end of the month in Tyumen, Omsk, and Tomsk Oblasts and in northern Novosibirsk Oblast.

Minimum soil temperature at winter crop tillering node depth was between 4 and 6 degrees. Conditions for the start of winter crop overwintering were good.

In the south of Novosibirsk and Kemerovo Oblasts and most of Altay Kray snow cover for much of the month was shallow (less than 10 cm) but there were no heavy frosts and minimum soil temperature at a depth of 3 cm did not fall below minus 12 to minus 15 degrees, which presents no danger to rye.

According to the Russian Hydrometerological Center's forecast, the mean air temperature in December is expected to be close to the long-term average over most of European Russia. Precipitation will also be close to the norm over almost all of European Russia. The mean air temperature is expected to be below average over most of the Northern Region but the amount of precipitation there will be above average. Conditions for overwintering of crops will be favorable. According to the forecast it is not expected that large areas of winter grain crops will suffer damage in the rest of European Russia in December.

In southern Krasnodar Kray, most of Stavropol Kray, and the republics of the North Caucasus, precipitation is expected to be above the long-term average for December, and mean air temperature will be close to the average. Crops' moisture supply could improve here.

Over most of West Siberia the mean air temperature in December is expected to be 1-3 degrees above average and the amount of precipitation will be close to the norm. Precipitation in December is expected to be above the perennial average only in the west of the West Siberian Region. Conditions for winter grain crop overwintering here will be favorable in December.

Moscow Limits Crop Land To Ensure Harvests

LD0112161494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia has again slashed the size of its crop land, which ensures more than one third of the country's grain harvest.

According to the Federal Service for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, seeds were only planted on 14.2 million hectares—one million hectares less than last year, and five million hectares less than the average crop land of the last five years.

Assessing the planted winter crops quality, experts describe them as good and satisfactory on 11.5 million hectares or 81 percent of the plantations and sickly or damaged on the remaining 19 percent of the crop land, 2.7 million hectares large.

Between 1989 and 1993, crippled winter crops were registered on an area of 1.3 million hectares or 6.8 percent of the plantations.

The government forecasts next year's grain harvest in Russia at this year's level. The 1994 grain crop of 85 million tonnes is the lowest gross pick of grain since 1981.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Grachev Indends Staff Reduction, Reorganization

LD0112194094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1725 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leader of the Russian military department Pavel Grachev reported that "in the near term" the central apparatus of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff would be cut down "but not by 30 percent as mass media reported earlier."

In a conversation with journalists in Moscow on Thursday he pointed out that the number of deputy defense ministers would be reduced, several other leading posts would be reduced and transformed.

"Unfortunately, several deputy defense ministers have occupied controlling posts for two years. Now everyone will carry personal responsibility for his sphere of work," Grachev underlined.

He refuted information stating that reduction of the central apparatus of Russia's Defense Ministry is "a struggle with the inner opposition," in particular, with Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov.

As Grachev said, he also intends to carry out "organizational rearrangements" within the Defense Ministry in order to prevent duplicating of different structures. In addition, "several departments of the Defense Ministry will be united."

According to Grachev, he will officially announce about the plans to change the structure of the central apparatus on Friday at the conference of the commanding staff of the defense ministry.

Grachev pointed out that it is the prerogative of the state examination board headed by Yuriy Baturin, presidential aide on security, to appoint and to release of duties the supreme commanding staff of the Defense Ministry. In accordance with the Constitution the Commander in Chief of the Russian Armed Forces President Boris Yeltsin finally appoints or releases supreme commanders of the Russian armed forces.

Prosecutor Clears Grachev of Corruption Charge

LD0212101494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0942 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—Russian Acting Prosecutor General Alexey Ilyushenko said on Friday that there was "no corpus delicti" in the purchase of two "Mercedes" cars in Germany for the Russian Defence Ministry and stressed that Pavel Grachev had not committed any crime.

"Defence Minister Pavel Grachev cannot face responsibility as he did not commit any crime", Ilyushenko told TASS and added that "there is no crime in purchasing the two 'Mercedes'".

Several Russian mass media accused Grachev of ordering the purchase of the "Mercedes" by the Russian troops in Germany for money which was intended for the construction of housing for the withdrawn troops in Russia. The "MOSKOVSKY KOMSOMOLETS" daily was especially active in accusing Grachev after its military correspondent Dmitriy Kholodov, who investigated cases of corruption among Russian top military in Germany, was killed in his office by a parcel bomb.

"There is no corpus delicti in the fact of purchasing the notorious 'Mercedes'", Iluyshenko said and stressed that the "episode is considered exhausted". "This is the final decision", he added.

At the same time the prosecutor general said that, upon a request from Grachev, a criminal case is being investigated against the "MOSKOVSKY KOMSOMOLETS" daily which accused the defence minister of corruption.

Military Commanders' 'Conspiracy' Unfounded

LD0212121494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—"Although criminal proceeding were instituted in the Western Army Group on charges of abuse, there was no criminal conspiracy between top military commanders," said Russian acting prosecutor general, Aleksey Ilyushenko, in an interview with ITAR-TASS today.

"As for corruption, such a notion does not currently exist in the jurisprudence, but 'bribery' and 'abuse of power' are applied," Ilyushenko said.

He confirmed that the chief military prosecutor's office and the general prosecutor's office are investigating criminal charges brought against the Western Army Group, but there is not a single case to confirm that there was corruption among top officers of the western group," Ilyushenko said.

"I was surprised to come across a statement made by the chairman of the Duma Committee for Defence, Sergey Yushenkov, saying that the general prosecutor's office withheld some facts. We do not conceal anything, but we simply do not have any documents, although someone wish the documents turn up," Ilyushenko said.

Funding Shortages Idle Pacific Fleet Ships

OW0112132194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1935 GMT 27 Nov 94

[Aleksandr Brodskiy video report; from the "Utro" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation Pacific Fleet sailors find themselves in today is a very dramatic one. Over 37,000 servicemen are on a waiting list for an apartment. However, probably only a few of them will be able to get a place of their own in the near future. According to Admiral Khmelnov, commander of the Pacific Fleet, it will take several years at best. The Russian Ministry of Defense allocates no money for this purpose, and the only help the military bosses and the state property committee give the sailors is by selling the fleet's own ships to foreign clients.

What is more, funds received through these deals are channeled directly into the budget of the Ministry of Defense, and only a small portion returns to the Maritime Kray to fund construction of housing. Meanwhile, as the money is going around in a circle, many officers are forced to bring their wives into their ship-board quarters. One should add that a square meter in Vladivostok is valued at 1.5 million rubles [R] today, while the pay of a task force commander is only half of this. As for a sailor on a submarine, his pay is only R9,000 a month.

However, these are not the only problems of Pacific Fleet sailors. Numerous battle ships have been idle for several years now for reasons of both personnel shortages and the lack of funds for repairs. Moreover, because of the complexity of their construction, many ships require that repairs be carried out in the Western parts of the country and in the Ukraine, which is impossible due to economic and political considerations.

The problem of salvaging radioactive waste coming from the reactors of decommissioned submarines is also being solved with great difficulty.The problem is so important that a special report will be dedicated to it in the near future.

I would like to add just one thing in conclusion: In spite of all the difficulties, the combatreadiness of the Pacific Fleet is at the highest level and it is second to no foreign fleet. However, this should by no means be a reason for the center to continue ignoring the problems of sailors.

Reactors End Weapons-Grade Plutonium Production

LD0212115694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry factories ceased to use the plutonium obtained from three industrial reactors of the mining and chemical plants in Zheleznogorsk (Krasnoyarsk-26) and in the Siberian Chemical Works in Seversk (Tomsk-7) for weapon production as of October 1.

Georgiy Kaurov, head of the ministry's information board, told Interfax that this had been done in compliance with nuclear disarmament agreements and would make a tangible contribution to the improvement of the international situation and reduce the nuclear threat.

According to Kaurov, these reactors cannot be stopped because they are used for heat and energy generation for the nearby towns.

Kaurov explained that the non-weapon-grade plutonium, would be stored and later used as fuel in fast reactors.

The Krasnoyarsk-26 and Tomsk-7 reactors are scheduled to be closed down before 2000 when they will be replaced by other heating and energy sources.

To Produce Electricity Until 2000

LD0212101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0934 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—Enterprises of the Russian Ministry of Nuclear Industry ceased to use plutonium produced at three industrial reactors (in the Zheleznogorsk rock-chemistry combined works and in the Sibirskiy chemical combined works in Seversk) when making nuclear arms from October 1, the ministerial press service told ITAR-TASS on Friday [2 December].

These reactors cannot be stopped, for they are being used to produce heat and electricity. Plutonium supplies which are produced by these reactors in the form, which is unacceptable for making nuclear arms, will be stored and later on used as fuel to feed quick-neutron reactors.

In 2000, these industrial reactors in Zheleznogorsk (also known as Krasnoyarsk-26) and Seversk (Tomsk-7) will be brought to a standstill and replaced by other sources of heat and electricity.

Media Issues

Press Committee Calls To Stop 'Fascist' Papers

LD0112140894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1248 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—The Russian Committee for the Press is not going to put up with the publication in Russia of some 100 fascist newspapers, chairman of the committee Sergey Gryzunov said at a press conference today.

He pointed out that the Russian law on the mass media does not allow to close them down immediately. The law suggests official warning and a court trial.

According to Gryzunov, amendments to the law are now being drawn up, which will make it possible to act more effectively in this sphere. He expressed regret that the printing house, which publishes the AL-KODS newspaper, did not respond promptly enough to the resolution of the Committee for the Press on stripping the newspaper of its registration certificate. If the publication of AL-KODS is continued, the printed copies will be confiscated, and its distributors will be fined, the chairman of the committee said.

He said the Committee for the Press now had a mechanism in its disposal for responding to such phenomena. After the disbandment of the state inspection for protecting freedom of the press and mass media organs, its regional inspectors joined the Committee for the Press. They will help tackle the problem of the violation of rights of journalists.

In December the committee jointly with the judicial chamber for information arguments will analyse the situation of journalists in the Maritime Territory and will issue recommendations on this problem.

Closes Palestinian Newspaper

LD0112222694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2033 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Moscow newspaper Al-Kods has been closed down under orders from the head of the Russian State Committee for the Press Sergey Gryzunov because under the press law a foreign citizen cannot found a Russian publication. This was announced at a Thursday news conference by Gryzunov himself.

He said Izvestiya publishers will no longer print Al-Kods. If attempts are made to print it elsewhere, Gryzunov intends to turn to law enforcement bodies and confiscate editions.

The paper was founded by Shafe Shaaban, the head of the unrecognized Palestinian government in exile which is in opposition to Yasir 'Arafat. According to experts, the paper is a classical fighter against international Zionism.

The news conference was told that Russia now has at least 137 fascist or radical nationalist publications, but the State Committee will not remain indifferent. "We have sufficient muscles to close down all the fascist magazines and newspapers published in the country," the minister said.

Chernomyrdin Creates Chechen 'Information Center'

LD0112192294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1735 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Dec—The Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today signed instructions for the creation of a temporary information center under the Russian Federation press committee. Sergey Gryzunov, chairman of the press committee, has been appointed as the center's head.

This decision has been taken in connection with the deteriorating situation in the North Caucasus, which threatens to further destabilize the sociopolitical situation, and for the purpose of providing the Russian and world public with objective information about events taking place in the region.

The prime minister has instructed a number of ministries and departments, including the power-wielding structures, to provide the temporary information center with up-to-date information about what is happening in the North Caucasus.

Jointly with the Russian Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and the Federal Counterintelligence Service, the center will help representatives of Russian and foreign media working in the North Caucasus, providing them with unbiased information and ensuring their personal safety.

Gryzunov, the chairman of the Russian state press committee, has explained at a news conference held at the committee that it would in all probability be authorized to state the official point of view on developments in Chechnya. In his words, if a state of emergency is introduced in the region, there is a law, and if political solutions fail to work, censorship will start to operate in the emergency zone. At the same time, he expressed a hope that no such thing will happen in Moscow and no one will be watching the printing-press there.

Gryzunov defined his own personal position in the event of possible extraordinary events in the following way: If the publications have any verified information it should be published.

In private conversation with ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin, Gryzunov said that he was awaiting a government decision on directives for the Russian press committee's information activities in the event of a state of emergency being introduced.

A number of agencies and TV companies have been given the opportunity to create modern correspondents' offices in the committee's building. An ITAR-TASS correspondent's office at the press committee has already begun work.

The temporary information center today denied a report from individual media claiming that former North Ossetian Interior Minister Yuriy Zayev (now head of the Caucasus and Near East Department of the FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service]), in hiding in Urus-Martan, had supposedly led the opposition attack on Groznyy. Quoting the FSK, the temporary information center said that Yuriy Zayev had been working in the FSK since June of this year where he dealt with analysis of the counterintelligence agencies' operational and investigatory activities and that he had not left Moscow.

In connection with this it is noted that claims of this kind look like psychological pressure.

TV 'Corporating' Seen To Hold Uncertain Future

MK0112140094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Antonina Belyayeva in the Television" column: "A new TV-Hybrid—'Ostankino'—Has Been Produced. Commercial Structures Have Received Their Share of Central TV"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At long last the president's ardent wish to do something with his TV has found a vent. After several weeks of suspense and whispered rumors, the agitated TV and para-TV circles were hit by news of a new draft edict on TV and radio broadcasting. It could not have been otherwise: Alarmed by the president's somewhat rash decision to merge the two state TV companies into one, the TV bosses opposed such transformations. An attempt to appease them and at the same time address the problems of financing TV companies was made with the help of a new edict, already signed by the president, "On Corporatizing the Ostankino TV Company," as if completely forgetting the famous "remark" about the possible merging of the two state TV structures. (Once the words have been said they cannot be unsaid, but then virtually any decision will appear more or less acceptable and even life-saving compared to the previous one).

With the new edict, things are back to square one. The All- Russian TV and Radio Broadcasting Company, which was created with the president's personal participation, is being left alone, i.e., with the status of a state company. Ostankino is to become "public" and subject to corporatization. Let Russian TV remain state controlled—let it. In any event, somehow or other it has demonstrated its affiliation with the state. Maybe it will also be easier to manage one company: Budget appropriations to finance two TV companies or just one are insufficient anyway.

What awaits Ostankino? The major shareholder will be the State Property Committee (it will have 51 percent of the stock and therefore the new company will be more state-run than commercial). The remaining 12 shareholders—Menatep, Stolichnyy bank, Inkombank, Roskredit, ITAR-TASS (incidentally, a state company), AvtoVAZ, the Aeroflot International Airlines, and so forth—will control 49 percent of stock. A number of banks that joined the struggle for Channel 1 were at the last moment struck off the list of shareholders. The resultant company—Public Russian TV (ORT)—under the edict, will start broadcasting on Channel 1 (former Ostankino) as of 1 February 1995. It will naturally be financed from extra-budgetary funds (correspondingly, the budgetary funds released will be directed to the All-Russian TV and Radio Broadcasting Company).

The picture is almost idyllic. The process of corporatization, however, mars it considerably. First, clearly the shareholders will not get any profits from the new company for five or more years to come. Therefore, in investing their funds, commercial banks and other structures are hoping for a different kind of profits (I, for one, do not believe in the honest intention to help the collapsing TV system). And if someone believes that "independent" TV, breaking free from state tutelage, ceases to be a political rostrum, he is mistaken. Out of the frying pan and into the fire.

Therefore, without attempting to create a large private TV company, they have produced a hybrid: joint-stock, independent, and "public" (watched by everybody but owned by certain, including commercial, structures, although the controlling interest is held by the state). It is not known whether the hybrid will survive. But this has been a burden off the state's back: It will no longer have to pay for it.

Federal Assembly

Duma Puts Forward 7 Principles for Peace in Chechnya

LD0212100894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0926 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 2 Dec—The State Duma is currently drawing up seven principles for a peaceful settlement of the Chechen conflict. This was stated at a news conference today by Valentin Kovalev, a chamber deputy chairman.

These methods and means for a peaceful resolution of the difficult situation that has arisen in Chechnya are as follows:

1. All illegal armed formations in Chechnya must lay down their weapons and be disbanded.

2. Citizens who are not involved in serious crimes and who have voluntarily laid down their weapons shall be exempt from criminal liability on the basis of the amnesty enactment.

3. Persons seized during armed clashes and unlawfully detained must be freed.

4. The question of national reconciliation must be considered at the Council of Elders in Chechnya in the traditions of the Caucasian peoples.

5. Comprehensive economic assistance must be given immediately to the Chechen Republic at federal level.

6. Democratic elections must be held in the Republic.

7. Russian President Boris Yeltsin must act as guarantor of peace in the Chechen Republic, of political and economic stability, and of the legality and fairness of the elections.

Yavlinskiy Criticized on Minimum Wage Increase

MK0112144094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 3

[Report from Omsk by Igor Spiridonov under the "Commentary" rubric: "Aleksandr Pochinok Accused Grigoriy Yavlinskiy of Being a 'Political Prostitute.' In His View, the Government Will Execute the Budget Even if the Duma Does Not Pass It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a seminar organized in Novosibirsk for journalists specializing in economic subjects, Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the State Duma Budget Committee, called Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's initiative to pass a law on raising the minimum wage to 54,000 rubles "political prostitution." In Mr. Pochinok's view, this call by Mr. Yavlinskiy, who conceded that "his faction did so in order to forestall the communists," was simply immoral. Not only will this law be impracticable, because it calls for over 30 trillion rubles to be added to the budget expenditure, it will also be damaging, because it will harm the underprivileged, not help them: "If, as a result of its realization, the lowest-paid citizens are given a monthly increase of 33,600 rubles, ministers and generals will get up to 1 million, which will only increase social tension." In Aleksandr Pochinok's view, what the badly off would benefit from is not an increase in the minimum wage, on which "the entire ladder of budget-financed company workers' wages" depends, but a rise in the wages of society's lowest-paid sectors. At the same time, Mr. Pochinok was certain that neither the Federation Council nor, moreover, the president would approve the law passed by the State Duma.

With regard to the 1995 draft budget presented by the government, Mr. Pochinok said he was certain the State Duma would, to all appearances, reject it, because it will not let political leaders indulge in populism and fritter money away in the run-up to the election campaign, for which reason the communists and the "Zhirinovites" have a stake in spurning it. But the deputy budget committee chairman does not see that as something terrible: the government will simply be executing the budget it has drawn up. Nor will there be any difficulties for territories—their budgets are currently independent from the federal budget except for transfers, which can at any time be calculated and agreed on.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin 'Ready for Talks' With Chechnya's Dudayev

LD0112133694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 1 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Boris Yeltsin is ready for talks with Dzhokhar Dudayev, since the main task for today is to avoid bloodshed. RIA news was told this by Leonid Smirnyagin, a member of the Presidential Council.

Duma Team Arrives in Nazran; To Meet Chechen Delegation

LD0112134794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, 1 Dec—A delegation of the Russian State Committee headed by the chairman of the chamber's defense committee arrived in Ingushetia's capital Nazran today. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this at the apparatus of the Duma defense committee, whose staff members have succeeded in telephoning Movlen Salamov, an aide of Chechnya's president.

He said that, in turn, a delegation of the Chechen parliament had set off from Groznyy to Nazran, where it will hold talks on what is to happen to the prisoners captured during the storming of Groznyy. According to the claims of the Chechen leadership, the prisoners are Russian servicemen. Movlen Salamov confirmed the guarantees for the personal safety of the prisoners, given by Chechnya's leadership.

He also said that in the course of the day Groznyy has been periodically subjected to bombings from the air. The reports on the bombings were confirmed in a report from Groznyy by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev.

Chechen Opposition Insists on Bringing in Russian Troops

LD0112144294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1335 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Znamenskoye, 1 Dec—The head of the opposition interim council of Chechnya is categorically against talks between Moscow and official Groznyy and is insisting on Russian troops being brought into Chechnya.

"Talks of any kind with official Groznyy are impossible," Umar Avturkhanov told journalists today, adding that Dzhokhar Dudayev's main purpose for talks would be to play for time.

"Bringing in Russian troops is essential at this time," Umar Avturkhanov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS. "A state of emergency is essential," he added, stressing that the opposition had "asked Russia's leadership to postpone the deployment of the troops by several days so that work could be done among the population so that they do not offer resistance."

A state of emergency and bringing in troops would, in Avturkhanov's opinion, be "for the good of the Chechen people" and would help to halt the fratricidal war in Chechnya.

The interim council today adopted an appeal to the population of Chechnya in which they call upon the people to avoid mass bloodshed and not to support the ruling regime, which "is striving to draw duped people into senseless slaughter."

'Official Text' of Yeltsin Appeal on Chechnya Released

LD0112161694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1509 GMT 1 Dec 94

[All quotation marks are as received; passages differing from the referent item are noted with 'as received' notations]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—An explanation from the press service of the president of the Russian Federation has been sent to ITAR-TASS. It reads:

"In connection with the situation around the Chechen Republic and, in particular, with regard to the appeal of the russian president, issued on 29 November by the government press service and addressed to the participants of the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic, certain discrepancies have appeared in the mass media concerning the interpretation of a number of provisions of this document. This applies, in particular, to the issue of the measures which the Russian authorities may take to restore constitutional legitimacy, law, order and peace in the Chechen Republic.

"In order to avoid different interpretations of the appeal by B.N. Yeltsin, the president's press service is circulating the official text of the appeal."

Appeal to the participants in the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic.

Blood is being shed on the ancient land of the Caucasus, which is an inseparable part of our fatherland.

Despite all the efforts of the federal bodies of state power, the elders who hold authority in the Northern Caucasus, the leaders of the peoples living there, the calls of the Russian and world public, they have not succeeded in stopping the internal conflict in Chechnya. Its scale is broading, the fierceness of the armed clashes is increasing. The confronting sides are attracting mercenaries to take part in the armed actions, including mercenaries from foreign states.

Through the fault of irresponsible politicians, due to their self-seeking interests and unsatiated ambitions, innocent people are perishing. The number of orphans is multiplying. The constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens are being trampled. Thousands of hapless people are being turned into refugees, being deprived of a roof over their heads, and are being forced to leave their homes and the graves of their ancestors. [sentence as received] Grief, suffering, fear in the face of excessive crimes, and unbridled banditry are poisoning the life of the Chechen people and their neighbors.

The hope of an independent solution to the internal Chechen conflict has been completely exhausted. The situation is acquiring a nature which is extremely dangerous for stability and peace in our society, and for the vitally important interests and national security of Russia.

The entire responsibility for Chechnya's fate, for the life and health of all its citizens, lies with me, the president of Russia. Expressing the will of our multinational people, and in accordance with the powers vested in me by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, I appeal to all the participants in the armed confrontation in the Chechen Republic with a demand that, from the moment of my appeal, they have 48 hours to declare a cease-fire, lay down their arms, disband all the armed formations, and release all the citizens who have been captured and are being detained by force. [sentence as received]

If this demand is not met by the set deadline, all the forces and means at the disposal of the state will be used to put a stop to the bloodshed, to protect the life, rights and freedoms of citizens of Russia, to restore constitutional legality, law and order and peace in the Chechen republic". [sentence as received]

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, 29 November 1994 [no title as received]

Edict Conditions Aid Guarantees

LD0112142294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1336 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Dec—Today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an edict guaranteeing aid to those Chechen citizens who have surrendered their weapons and who are not involved in grave crimes against the civilian population of this republic and of individual north Caucasian regions of Russia. This edict releases them from criminal liability.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by a high-ranking source in the Yeltsin administration.

The decree applies to participants in the "unlawful actions, connected with the armed conflict in Chechnya."

Gives Deadline for Arms Surrender

LD0112180094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1740 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree today setting December 15 as a deadline for surrendering weapons in Chechnya.

The decree "On Measures To Strengthen Law and Order in the North Caucasus" recommends public prosecutors not to file criminal charges against those people who surrender their weapons voluntarily before December 15 and were not involved in grave crimes against civil population.

Fails To Mention 'Emergency'

LD0112193494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1725 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The press service of the Russian president circulated Thursday evening the official text of Boris Yeltsin's appeal to the sides of the armed conflict in Chechnya that contains no mention of the possible introduction of a state of emergency there.

The press service accounted its move to the fact that there have been certain differences in the mass media in the interpretation of several provisions of the appeal that was circulated on November 29 along channels of the government press service.

The official text of the presidential appeal differs from the one the mass media received Tuesday morning by the absence of the mention of the possibility of introducing the state of emergency in Chechnya and the absence of the sentence: "The hope that Chechnya will settle its internal conflict itself has been fully exhausted."

Official Views 'Soft Variant' of Chechen State of Emergency

LD0112162194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The introduction of "a soft variant of the state of emergency" would be the best solution of the Chechen problem, believes Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Security and Defense Committee Pyotr Premyak.

In an interview with Interfax on Thursday [1 December] Premyak said: "We cannot evade the introduction of a state of emergency since the Chechen regime is unable to put things in order in the republic. It is better that it be a soft variant, that is the appointment of a head of the provisional administration in Chechnya and the settlement of the relations with the population, armed units and the leadership of the republic by peaceful means."

Premyak believes that the leaders of the Russian Federation and of the Chechen Republic "should have enough courage to prevent the use of force."

Premyak said that the Federation Council's Security and Defense Committee, whose member is Russian Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policies Nikolai Yegorov, is prepared to take part in the peace-keeping process.

Answering the question on possible participation of FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service] representatives in recuiting volunteers who took part in the military operations on the Chechen territory, Premyak said that the reports in the media were not objective and it is not within the competence of the FSK to do this.

He believes that mediators who could have forged documents probably called themselves FSK people.

Presidential Official: No State of Emergency on Chechnya

LD0112145994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—"The president will not sign a decree imposing a state of emergency on Chechnya in the near future", according to a top official at the presidential administration.

When asked whether such a document is being prepared, the official said "in a critical situation, one should have a choice of variants, including a draft decree introducing a state of emergency in Chechnya. Otherwise, with events developing so fast, it might turn out too late to set to writing a document in question".

Commander Says No Troops Ordered Into Chechnya

LD0112143394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian interior troops have not been ordered to enter Chechnya, Commander of Russian Interior Troops Anatoliy Kulikov told INTERFAX on Thursday [1 December]. This was his comment on the statement by the Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov about the start of taking measures "to remedy the situation in the Chechen Republic."

Interior troops are still deployed along the perimeter of the Chechen administrative border, said Kulikov.

Earlier, well-informed sources told INTERFAX that an interior military contingent had been formed in the vicinity of the town of Mozdok (North Ossetia).

Dudayev: Russia Waging 'Undeclared War' Against Chechnya

LD0112172794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1558 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 1 Dec—Dzhokar Dudayev reported at a news conference today that at 0600 this morning his house in Katayama village was bombed and his family was forced to go down into the cellar. He showed the journalists a bomb fragment as confirmation.

Dudayev considers that the aircraft were Russian. In this connection he stated that Russia is waging an undeclared war against the Chechen Republic. They are employing all means possible, he said, to push me into using terror, but I will not do that.

Concerning those taken prisoner in Chechnya, who are described in Groznyy as Russian soldiers and officers, Dudayev said that their fate will be determined by the court. I am not a judge, he stressed.

The news conference took place in one of the basement rooms of the presidential palace.

After arriving in Groznyy a Russian State Duma delegation headed by Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the defense committee, met Shamseddin Yusef, foreign minister in Dudayev's government. The delegation is in Chechnya for talks on the fate of the prisoners seized during the storming of Groznyy on 26 November.

Nail Irtuganov, Ushenkov's aide, informed ITAR-TASS's Moscow correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov that the delegation also held talks with Chechnya's vice president and that Yushenkov is to have a meeting with Dudayev later behind closed doors.

Meanwhile a rally is continuing in the center of Groznyy. Its participants have demanded that after each raid on the city reprisals be taken one at a time against the captured Russian mercenaries fighting on the opposition's side.

In Moscow Vladimir Podolin, a spokesman for the interior troops' press center, informed an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the subunits of interior troops stationed in the North Caucasus and areas bordering Chechnya remain in their positions and are carrying out their assigned duties. "Over the past 48 hours none of our soldiers have left the places where they are stationed," he noted.

Situation 'Getting Out of Control'

LD0112191794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1725 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chechnya's separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev said the situation in the breakaway Russian republic "is gradually getting out of control."

"We may get to a point where neither (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin nor Dudayev nor even joint efforts will be able to prevent the situation from developing... Into a total war," the Chechen leader said on Thursday following a fresh air raid on his capital Groznyy.

Chechnya "has never refused negotiating, but talks constantly get wrecked, for which the Russian leadership is to blame," he told a news conference in Groznyy.

"Chechnya is always ready to shake a hand which is offered to it. But if a fist is thrust in its face, Chechnya is simply forced to defend its freedom," Dudayev said.

"A large number of volunteers from Islamic countries who have shown readiness to fight on the Chechen side for the freedom not only of Chechnya but of the entire Caucasus are on their way here," he said.

Shakhray Calls For Talks on Settlement in Chechnya

LD0112192994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1725 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray hopes that talks on a settlement in Chechnya will begin. In an interview with Interfax he said the surrender of arms, power and future elections in Chechnya should be the key subjects of negotiations.

In his opinion talks should be preceded by many-sided consultations which have actually begun with Chechen communities in Moscow and Kazakhstan. The political formula of the talks should remain unchanged: an end to the bloodshed, the improvement of the situation, preparations for elections, Shakhray said. They should result in a treaty with the legitimate government on the separation of powers.

However, the vice-premier felt that President Dzhokhar Dudayev is not ready for talks because for two years he did not respond to the telegrams from the Russian leadership or the visits of government representatives to Groznyy.

Still Shakhray said there are sober-minded people in Groznyy, especially among economic leaders. In his opinion there still is a chance of a peaceful settlement. However, the situation is complicated by budding differences in federal agencies, he said.

On the question of captives Shakhray said:"There are no men fighting at order on either side, everyone is there voluntarily and on contract, but they call some of the men volunteers and others mercenaries. Everyone in Chechnya beginning with Dudayev are Russian citizens, except foreign mercenaries."

He refrained from comments on government steps saying: "Others make the decisions, but I get the blows. I would have acted otherwise."

Yeltsin Ready for Talks

LD0112195594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is some fresh information received by our radio station on events in Chechnya. Russian President Boris Yeltsin recognizes Dudayev de facto but not de jure and the president is ready to engage in talks because the most important thing is to avoid mass bloodshed, member of the Presidential Council of the Russian Federation Leonid Smirnyagin told an Ekho Moskvy radio station correspondent. He stressed that peaceful means for resolving the conflict are not exhausted but a new aspect has emerged: the demonstration of force.

Yushenkov, Dudayev Discuss Russian Prisoners

LD0112223494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2005 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—A Russian top lawmaker on Thursday [1 December] met Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev for face-to-face talks about the fate of Russian citizens captured during last week's opposition assault on the Chechen capital, the lawmaker's aide told TASS over the phone.

Sergey Yushenkov, head of the State Duma Committee for Defence, said that he hoped that the Russian parliamentary delegation he leads would bring back to

Moscow part of Russians taken prisoner during the fighting. Talks with Dudayev are to be continued on Friday.

According to Yushenkov, all members of the Duma delegation are confident that the current crisis can be solved by political means, while the use of force or even preparations for it will inevitably result in a collapse.

Duma Team May Secure Release of Some Soldiers in Groznyy

LD0212095094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Some of the Russian soldiers and officers being held in Chechnya may be handed over to the State Duma delegation now in Groznyy and may return to Moscow with the delegation. This was stated in a telephone interview with a RIA correspondent by Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the Duma Defense Committee and head of the delegation. Grounds for this hope, he said, were given by the conversation held yesterday with Dzhokhar Dudayev. Yushenkov said the Chechen leadership links the arrival of the State Duma delegation with the hope that Moscow will give up trying to resolve the Chechen problem by force.

The RIA-Novosti correspondent has learned that Yushenkov has sent a report on the results of the talks in Groznyy to Boris Yeltsin. The contents of the report are not being made public.

Yushenkov, Chechnya's Yandarbiyev End First Round of Talks

LD0112194494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The first round of talks in Groznyy between Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, and Chechen Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev has finished. POSTFACTUM agency correspondent Igor Malov reports from Groznyy.

[Malov] The delegation was received by Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef and Chechen Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev. After talks, Yandarbiyev did not rule out the possibility of some of the Russian servicemen being released. However, he did make the possibility of their release conditional on the Russian leadership's further moves. Sergey Yushenkov said that the Russian delegation put a number of questions to the Chechen party. Among other things, the delegation asked for a full list of the prisoners, information on the charges being laid against them, and evidence of their guilt. For the time being it is a matter of 21 Russian servicemen. The Chechen party's response is expected tomorrow morning by 0900. The expected meeting between the Russian deputies and Dzhokhar Dudayev has not yet been set.

Premier Stops Newsmen Covering Yushenkov's Chechnya Visit

LD0112221394 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A State Duma delegation led by Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov is in Groznyy. The aim of Yushenkov's mission is to clarify the fate of the prisoners suspected by the authorities in Chechnya of belonging to the Russian Army.

It should be noted that General Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Army, gave his personnel guarantee that journalists could take part in the trip. However, the plane carrying the deputies and the journalists was cordoned off in Mozdok by special forces; no one was allowed to leave the plane. It should be noted that the special forces cited orders given by Nikolay Yegorov, [Russian] nationalities minister and the president's personal representative in Chechnya.

[Correspondent Vorflamiyev] Delegation leader Sergey Yushenkov managed to get in contact with Moscow. In a telephone conversation, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin only allowed the deputies to fly out of Mozdok for Groznyy. Citing the problem of guaranteeing their safety in the Chechen capital, he refused to allow any of those accompanying the deputies, including (Sheykh Geyruddin), the head of Russia's Muslims, to go to Groznyy. It is clear that the Russian authorities have something to hide and have something to be afraid of in the Caucasus. It is for this very reason that journalists with their recorders and video cameras were not allowed into Chechnya.

Vladimir Vorflamiyev, Ekho Moskvy, Chkalov airport.

Sixty Russian APC's Heading Toward Chechnya

LD0112205394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Another piece of news. An IMA-press correspondent has learned that Russian military units are moving toward the Chechen border. Thus on 1 December a column of roughly 60 armored personnel carriers passed in the direction of the Chechen Republic. On 30 November, a state of heightened combat preparation was implemented in the 21st air assault brigade stationed in Stavropol. The governor of the kray announced at a meeting with heads of the mass media that he did not possess this information since the leadership of the interior and border troops was simply not supplying him with such information.

Chechen Opposition Leader Confident of Russian Intervention

LD0112205594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We know that Russian troops will be brought in and there are no other measures today, Umar Avturkhanov, head of the Chechen Provisional Council, said in an interview with Ekho Moskvy radio station. Or rather there are—but those measures are widescale bloodshed and the civil war which is already under way.

Moscow TV Reports Air Attack on Chechnya

LD0212085994 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been another air missile strike on populated areas of Chechnya. On the night of 2 December, a number of combat aircraft of unknown origin shelled the populated areas of Gudermes, Shali, and also the former DOSAAF [All-Union Order of Lenin Red Banner Voluntary Society of Assistance to the Army, Air Force, and Navy—Soviet-era organization] airfield in a suburb of Groznyy where a unit is stationed. INTERFAX was informed of this in the main headquarters of the Chechen armed forces.

Around 50 Reportedly in Killed Air Attack on Groznyy

LD0212091594 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0830 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report from Groznyy, last night a number of combat aircraft of unknown origin once again shelled the suburbs of Groznyy with missiles. We have been told at the presidential palace that around 50 people were killed, mainly women and children, as a result of the shelling. Fifteen buildings were destroyed.

Meanwhile, a parliamentary delegation headed by Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, plans to meet Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev for talks on the release of Russian prisoners of war.

Chechnya: Duma Delegation Protests Shelling of Groznyy

LD0212092894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0839 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 2 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the [State Duma] Defense Committee and leader of a State Duma delegation which is currently visiting in Groznyy, still hopes they will be able to take back with them some of the Russians captured during the storming of Groznyy. According to him, about 20 Russians were taken prisoner.

On Thursday night he had one-on-one talks with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev. The talks are to be continued today.

According to Yushenkov, all members of the delegation, including Ella Pamfilova, Vladimir Lysenko, and Anatoliy Shabad, agree that it is possible to find a peaceful way out of the situation which has developed and that strong-arm methods or even preparations for them will lead to a breakdown.

The Echo Moskvy radio station reported that the latest shelling of Groznyy last night evoked a protest from the Duma delegation. The editorial office received a copy of the telegram which the delegation sent to Boris Yeltsin. It contains a request "to do everything possible to stop the shelling of Groznyy and other Chechnya regions."

The delegation believes the president is not receiving reliable information from Chechnya. They ask him to urgently see them when they return to Moscow.

Yushenkov Confirms Aircraft Buzzed Groznyy

LD0212110994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0952 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 2 Dec—[passage omitted] Duma Deputy Chairman Valentin Kovalev stated that the State Duma was constantly following the situation in Chechnya. A State Duma delegation led by Defense Committee chairman Sergey Yushenkov was in Groznyy. It was constantly informing the Duma's leadership about the progress of the talks with Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Valentin Kovalev said that the latest information from Sergey Yushenkov was received by the Duma when the delegation was leaving for another meeting with Dudayev. Kovalev said that, according to Sergey Yushenkov, at 0010 hours today aircraft had begun to buzz Groznyy and drop flares and that this had lasted until 0250 hours in the morning.

"We contacted the Defense Ministry to clarify the situation, and they did not confirm that the aircraft belonged to the Russian Army," Valentin Kovalev said.

He stressed that the Duma delegation held out "the hope of a peaceful resolution of the situation that has developed." At the same time, Kovalev declared that the Duma delegation thought it was wrong to plan solutions based on force in the Chechen conflict.

Yushenkov Calls For 'Immediate' End to Bombing Raids

LD0212122094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the State Duma's Defense Committee Sergey Yushenkov, who is currently visiting Groznyy as head of a State Duma delegation, lashed out against those Russian leaders who deny Russian Army involvement in the Chechen developments.

In Thursday's [1 December] exclusive interview with INTERFAX Yushenkov reported a bombing raid on the city of Gudermes. There were casualties, he said. Yushenkov quoted the Chechen authorities as reporting a bombing raid on Djokhar Dudayev's residence.

In Yushenkov's view, the commitment of Russian troops to action in Chechnya is absolutely inadmissible and no link must be made between the commitment of Russian troops and the fate of the detained Russian nationals in Groznyy. It is much too late for the Duma to develop plans for a non-violent accommodation in Chechnya, Yushenkov said in reference to calls from the Duma's Deputy Speaker Valentin Kovalev and moves by the Russian parliament.

An immediate end to the bombing raids must be the word of the day, Yushenkov told INTERFAX.

Officers Said Assigned To Impose Emergency Rule in Chechnya

MK0112143094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 1

[Report from Khabarovsk by Oleg Kryuchek]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your SEGODNYA correspondent has learned that by directive of General Aleksandr Kulikov, former Moscow commandant during the October rebellion and current deputy internal affairs minister, a special commandant's office has been formed, made up of officers of the Eastern Interior Troops District (with headquarters in Khabarovsk) to work in Chechnya. The officers, with their bags packed, are only waiting for a report on the imposition of the state of emergency in the Chechen capital to fly to a new location of duty assignment. At issue are 30-50 officers, called up to enforce the state of emergency in curfew conditions with the help of interior troop subunits. The situation is particularly juicy because Mr. Kulikov's directive was signed and given approximately one week before President Boris Yeltsin issued his ultimatum to Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Russian Assault Troops Moved Up to Chechen Border Zone

MM0112161194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Burbyga: "Internal Troops in Chechnya Region Reinforced by Assault Troops"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper has learned that military transport aircraft have transferred several units from the Pskov and Tula Airborne Assault Divisions to the Mozdok area.

Around 300 men with the corresponding armaments and hardware left the units' base on the morning of 30 November for the strategic aviation airfield in Mozdok. The assault troops will be quartered near the airfield. Weapons and materiel continue to be brought in for them.

We have learned after talking to the assault troops that they have had no orders to begin offensive operations. Nonetheless, they are in a state of heightened combat readiness.

The airborne assault troops' headquarters, which this IZVESTIYA correspondent approached for an explanation, told me: "Day one of winter training has begun. Planned combat training is under way." But they refused to confirm or deny the news that the assault troops were being redeployed to the southern borders of Russia.

Slightly later we learned from a trustworthy source at the Defense Ministry that "in connection with the deteriorating domestic political situation in the Chechen Republic a decision has been made to send small forces and troop assets [neznachitelnyye sily i sredstva voysk] from the North Caucasus Military District to the Mozdok area to protect state lines of communication and important facilities, to put a stop to acts of banditry and sabotage, to eliminate [isklyucheniye] and prevent approaches by armed formations and detachments from adjoining territories or their movement beyond the bounds of the Chechen Republic, to prevent the spread of infectious disease, and to provide help to MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] internal troops in the event of a state of emergency being declared by the Defense Ministry on the border with the Chechen Republic. It is planned to complete the transfer and buildup of the forces required for these purposes by 14 December."

Twenty-seven Russian An-12 military transport aircraft landed in the North Ossetian town of Beslan, 120 km from Groznyy, on the night of 1 December, Dudayev aide Movlen Salamov claims. ITAR-TASS was told this by the Duma Defense Committee apparatus, whose staffers were able to telephone him in Groznyy. According to Movlen Salamov, the planes were carrying assault troops.

Moscow Security Stepped Up To Guard Against Terrorism

MM0112184094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Boris Soldatenko: "Muscovites' Safety Guaranteed. Law Enforcement Organs Introduce Heightened Security Measures in Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow has long been accustomed to the wail of militia sirens and to militiamen on patrol in the capital's streets wearing flak jackets and carrying automatic weapons. And therefore the conference held 30 November at the capital's Internal Affairs Main Administration could have been called highly routine, had it not been for its results.

Immediately after the conference ended, the entire guard at the Internal Affairs Main Administration building and rayon and district internal affairs administration buildings donned flak jackets and was armed with automatic weapons. The last time the militia staffers put on this "gear" was in October 1993, following the introduction of the state of emergency in Moscow.

Presumably the introduction of heightened security measures in Moscow is due to the deterioration in the situation in Chechnya and the end of the Russian president's 48-hour ultimatum to the participants in the armed confrontation. This is confirmed by a statement made 1 December by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, which says, in particular, that the capital's law enforcement organs are ready to "prevent subversive, terrorist, or other acts against Muscovites and targets in the capital."

The Internal Affairs Main Administration press service confirmed to me that as of 2000 hours on 30 November a staff was set up to coordinate the actions of all the capital's law enforcement organs. All the city's vital facilities have been placed under reinforced protection. There is additional patrolling of bridges, hydroinstallations, the petroleum refinery, heat and electric power stations, and power transmission lines. The arms and equipment of Internal Affairs Main Administration subunits have been placed on full combat readiness. Operational investigations groups have been reinforced, city leave passes for soldiers on compulsory service have been canceled, and the Internal Affairs Main Administration's leadership personnel is working around the clock.

Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov, deputy minister of internal affairs and commander of the Russian Federation MVD [Internal Affairs Ministry] internal troops, told journalists back on Tuesday that strengthened patrolling has been introduced at all strategic facilities. And he promised Russians that they need not be worried about their safety.

And although, as we were told at the Russian MVD, all the statements by Dudayev's supporters on possible terrorist acts in the capital may be mere words, all the law enforcement organs' subunits stand ready for anything unexpected. [A report on the same topic by Vasiliy Ustyuzhanin carried on page 3 of Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 December adds the following: "The guard at the 'White House,' the Kremlin, and the presidential buildings on Staraya Square has been issued with automatic weapons. In the streets, armed soldiers are supplementing the armed militia. At many state institutions civilian guards have been reinforced with militia cadres. The president's bodyguard has been given the order to take tough action—shoot to kill—in the event of the threat of a terrorist act."]

Chechen Aide Claims Yeltsin Assassination Bid Being Planned

MM0112194294 Moscow TRUD in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Korolev: "'If They Hit Groznyy, We Hit Moscow'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At midday yesterday the editorial office made contact with Groznyy by telephone. Musa Sultanov, leader of the Chechen Republic State Security Department's Analysis and Information Section, told us the following about events which had been taking place up to the moment of our conversation:

"During the night of 30 Nov-1 Dec (around 0300 hours) the Republic's capital was bombed yet again. More than 10 warplanes took part in the raid. The suburbs came under fire, but two air-to-surface missiles also exploded in the central part of the capital. There are casualties among the civilian population. According to preliminary figures, three people were killed and five wounded. The attacking side continued to exert psychological pressure on the population: Illumination flares blazed above the city and a paratroop landing was simulated.

"At present many thousands of armed members of the Republic's volunteer militia have gathered in the center of Groznyy. It is difficult for me even to imagine what the Kremlin strategists intend to do against such a force. One thing is certain: If Moscow goes ahead and hits Groznyy anyway, Groznyy will hit Moscow."

In conclusion, M. Sultanov said, in these very words:

"According to our information, an attempt on Boris Yeltsin's life is being prepared. The president will be killed by a rocket launcher. 'Chechen terrorists' will be falsely accused, although in reality the Russian president's immediate entourage will prove to have been involved in committing the planned crime...."

'Dangerous' Radiation Recorded at War Memorial Near Moscow

MM0112205594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 8

[Report by Arkadiy Zheludkov: "Guns on Poklonnaya Gora Are Source of Danger"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ecological protection community has been disturbed by news that has very rapidly spread around Moscow—heavy radiation has been discovered at Poklonnaya Hill. Our correspondent went to the scene to participate in the taking of readings with radiation monitors from the "Radon" science and production association.

Maksim Bolshakov, the "Radon" science and production association's senior radiation monitor, was clearly nervous prior to departure. Before the memorial complex was constructed on Poklonnaya Hill back in the years of "stagnation" there was a city dump there, where even radioactive waste was taken and buried. The burial sites and the trash were dug up during construction of the complex, but at that time the background radiation at the location was no more than normal. This was confirmed by Oleg Shanin, chief of Moscow City Radiation and Ecological Monitoring Service, in a conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent.

The readings, which were taken with our correspondent's assistance, were taken on professional equipment. A ship's gun displayed as an exhibit at the complex on Poklonnaya Hill buzzed. Its instruments, made with a phosphorite coating, showed a dangerous background: During IZVESTIYA photographer Vladimir Mashatin's attempt to get a reading using a domestic dosimeter the reading went off the scale. In such cases the domestic dosimeter's instructions advise people to leave the area immediately and inform the competent services about the source of radiation. Measurements taken by professionals showed that the instruments' luminous markers give a reading of 22,000 microroentgens per hour! A considerable dose, especially bearing in mind that there are always many children who showing an interest in the guns and instruments on Poklonnaya Hill. The instrument controls have been polished to a shine by children's hands. [passage omitted]

Minister: Only 8% of Oil-Polluted Komi Area Cleansed

LD0112153394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Aleksandr Shuvalov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—A Russian deputy environment minister said that only 8.3 percent of oil-polluted area has been cleansed in 45 days after the breakdown at the Usinsk oil-pipe in Russia's northern Komi Republic occurred.

The ministry is also much concerned over the fact that construction of a new pipe-line section is factually upset, Viktor Kostin told TASS on Thursday. "One can expect even worse failure there at any moment", he said. Kostin urged for speeding up oil removal and construction of environment protection facilities to eliminate consequences of the oil-spill.

The Komi republican commission for emergencies and the joint- stock company "Komineft" drew plans to eliminate the spill aftermath, but did not support them with any rehabilitation schedule. This is the major reason for delays and low efficiency of repair works, according to Kostin.

International Affairs

Tatars Condemn Russian 'Interference' in Chechnya

LD0112174294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—"The so-called 'provisional council' of the Chechen Republic is overtly engaging in combat operations against the legitimate government," the Crimean Tatar peoples majlis presidium has said in a statement, out on 1 December. "The Russian president's ultimatum on the introduction of a state of emergency in Chechnya is nothing other than the legalization of the Russian Army's interference in Chechnya's affairs."

The statement continues: "The provisional council is maintained and armed by a third party that originates outside the Chechen Republic. This party has no interest in a peaceful settlement to the Chechen problem. Forming and arming a so-called 'opposition' where there isn't any, and inflaming a civil war is an age-old and well-tried method of imposing one's own influence as that of 'peacekeepers.'"

The Crimean Tartar peoples majlis presidium called on all democratic forces of Russia to put an end to the escalation of armed interference in Chechnya's affairs and to enable the Chechen people themselves to decide their fate.

Crimea Wants Russia's Duma To Act as Guarantor

LD0112182594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1515 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 1 Dec—The Supreme Council of Crimea held its second regular sitting on 30 November. It elected the secretariat of the session. (Andriy Stavytskyy) was elected head of the secretariat.

The session also adopted a decision to discuss in groupings and, until the lunch break, the possible agenda for the session.

After the break, at the beginning of the morning meeting Stavytskyy announced the formation of groupings of the Supreme Council of Crimea. He said that legally, the following groupings had a right to exist: Crimea, Reforms, and Agrarians. At the moment clarification of those lists was being conducted so that they had a legal right to exist.

The agenda of the second session of Crimea's Supreme Council was then discussed. About 20 issues were on the agenda, in particular economic issues, issues connected with the Crimean reaction to the Supreme Council resolution "On repealing more than 40 acts of the Crimean Supreme Council" and also the issue on the Crimean Government's control commission and other issues. An appeal from the Supreme Council of Crimea was adopted addressed to the State Duma of the Russian Federation and Russia's Federation Council. The appeal notes that the State Duma and the Federation Council should guarantee Crimea's statehood. It also contains a request that the Republic of Crimea's interests should be taken into account during the conclusion of the wide-ranging interstate agreement between Ukraine and Russia.

The issue about the program of Crimea's social policy is being discussed. The session will continue its work on 1 December.

Official on Residents Obtaining Russian Citizenship

LD0112134694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Crimean Supreme Soviet intends to debate its permanent representation in Russia's Federal Assembly. Interfax-Ukraine reports that this issue was included in the agenda Wednesday.

The Crimean lawmakers will also discuss a request to the Russian president to open a Russian consular group in Crimea.

Crimean legislature's deputy chairman Viktor Mezhak said that the possibility for Crimean residents to obtain Russian citizenship had been discussed with Russian State Duma members.

According to Mezhak, the opening of a permanent consulate in Simferopol would be unacceptable because this would imply that Crimea was not Russian territory.

Supreme Council Discusses Citizenship

LD0112132994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2245 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 30 Nov—The parliamentary agenda was discussed at a meeting of the second session of the Crimean Supreme Council. Among the issues that the session was to discuss was a change in the Crimean-Tartar alphabet from Cyrillic to Latin and the adoption by Crimea's Supreme Council of an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Viktor Mezhak, deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council, made a speech on the latter issue. He noted that the presidential council for issues of citizenship under the president of the Russian Federation had passed a document to the Russian Foreign Ministry concerning the possibility of granting Russian citizenship to Crimeans but that problems had arisen at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

There could be three mechanisms that would enable residents of the peninsula to adopt Russian citizenship. One of them would be to open a consulate, for example in Odessa. It would be inexpedient to open a consulate in

Simferopol, noted Mr. Mezhak, since that would indicate that Crimea recognized that it does not belong to Russia.

Peacekeepers Held Hostage in Bosnia Unharmed

LD0112153894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev December 1 TASS—There is no threat to life of Ukrainian peacekeepers who were taken hostage by Bosnian Serbs, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry press service said. The Ukrainians are treated loyally.

The Ukrainians manning an armoured vehicle of the U.N.'s peacekeeping forces were seized early on November 30 near the town of Bihac at checkpoint No. 11. An officer and six men were brought to Dvor, where they are held hostage in a local hotel until now.

Negotiation is being continued for release of the hostages. Representatives of the U.N. peacekeepers' command were to meet Bosnian Serb commanders at 16:00 today.

Debris of Ukrainian Plane Found in Bihac

LD0112130994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev December 1 TASS—Debris of an AN-26 transport aircraft were discovered in the Muslim enclave of Bihac in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the territory of former Yugoslavia, a representative of the Ukrainian Department for Air Transport, who asked that his name not be given, told ITAR-TASS. The aircraft that belonged to the Kharkov air organisation was missing since August 1.

The search group established that all the six members of the crew and one passenger who were on board the plane died in the crash, the source said. The plane came under fire in the air. It was hit by the artillery of one of the conflicting sides and crashed onto a mine field. Members of the search group discovered the "black box" which will shortly be taken to Kiev and inspected. Under the agreement between the Kiev airlines and the Austrian-Russian firm Safadi, the transport plane was to take juice concentrate from Bihac to Kharkov.

Kuchma Pledges To Engage U.S. Companies in Oil Extraction

LD0112215094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has pledged to create as liberal conditions as possible to engage U.S. businessmen in Black Sea shelf oil and gas extraction, Dmytro Tabachnyk, head of the presidential administration, has announced, commenting on a private conversation between Kuchma and U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation President Ruth Harkin.

Tabachnyk added U.S. firms were also offered participation in a project to supply oil by a pipeline from the Gulf via Turkey to Odessa.

Navy Rejects Statements, Favors Single Black Sea Fleet

LD0212095494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol—The views expressed by five or six officers of Ukraine's naval forces, who signed a letter to the political leadership of Russia and Ukraine calling for joint use of the Black Sea Fleet, do not reflect the opinions of the entire Ukrainian Navy, it is said in a statement issued by the Ukrainian Navy's press center on 1 December.

Apart from that, the statement continues, a few Ukrainian officers' signatures inflict moral damage on all naval personnel and do not do credit to those who organized this address.

The press center said Ukrainian officers had repeatedly stated the need for the soonest possible formation of Ukrainian and Russian Navies on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet. Ukrainian sailors believe it is necessary to have in the Black Sea the national naval forces that will guarantee the security of Ukraine.

National Affairs

Poll Finds Kuchma 'Most Popular' Ukrainian

LD0112181994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1618 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev December 1 (TASS)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma rates higher than any other politician in the country. His rating exceeds that of ex-President Leonid Kravchuk and Speaker Moroz, if taken together, according to a recent public opinion poll conducted in Ukraine.

Kuchma is backed by 60 per cent of west Ukrainian residents, 45.3 per cent of east Ukrainians, 52.5 per cent of Kiev residents, and 34 per cent of people in Ukraine's semi-autonomy of Crimea. He was named most popular Ukrainian politician by 521 out of 1,200 respondents, or 47.6 per cent.

Kuchma Backs Tartar Business Initiative

LD0112162094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has backed the initiatives of the Ukrainian and

Tartar governments to set up a transnational Ukrtatneft financial and industrial oil company.

Under the Ukrainian president's November 29 decree, the State Property Fund and the State Oil and Gas Committee have until January 1, 1995 to transfer the appropriate number of state-owned shares and property of the Kremenchugnefteorgsintez company and the Ukrnefteprodukt oil and petroleum product supplying company to the equity fund of Ukrtatneft.

The worth of the shares must be equivalent to the property (securities) transferred to the equity fund by Tatarstan.

The decree gave the Ukrainian State Property Fund, the State Oil and Gas Committee, the Economics, Foreign Economic Relations and Finance ministries and the Anti-Monopoly Committee two weeks to draft fundamental documents for Ukrtatneft jointly with the necessary Tartar bodies.

The Ukrainian Government will have a month in which to agree on the founding documents with Tatarstan's government, to approve the company's charter and to determine benefits for the company which will supply oil to Ukraine on a consignment basis.

Nuclear Official Criticizes Lack of U.S. Aid

WS0212123194 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 29 Nov 94 p 3

[Interview with Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for the Issues of Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety, by Mykhaylo Yakubivskyy; place and date not given: "In Ukraine, There Is No Alternative to Nuclear Power Engineering"—first paragraph is UKRAYINA MOLODA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, born in 1942, is chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Issues of Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety and a member of the Ukrainian Republican Party Council. He is also vice president of the Academy of Technological Sciences, doctor of technological sciences, and professor. Before his election to the Supreme Council this spring, he was manager of Ukraine's sole Scientific Research Institute for the Problems of Mechanics—the Rytm, involved in research and production of high-tech devices and systems for steering movable objects. Besides, Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy created the Ukrainian scientific school for gyroscopes and navigation systems. He is the honored activist of Ukraine's science and technology sector, a member of the scientific-technological councils of the Ministry of Machine-Building and the Ministry of Defense.

[Yakubivskyy] You have recently visited two superpowers—the United States and China. What was the purpose of those visits?

[Pavlovskyy] I spent two weeks of my leave studying in the United States. After that, I spent another week in China, where I attended a scientific symposium on space science and technology. In the United States I, naturally, met with people representing the Ukrainian diaspora. Aside from that, I had meetings with congressmen and government and department officials. During my talks with representatives of U.S. Government circles, I repeatedly emphasized the inadequate financial assistance rendered to Ukraine by the United States. The point is that in terms of U.S. per capita assistance to foreign countries, Armenia is in first place, followed by Russia. Meanwhile, Ukraine is in 11th position among the CIS states. At the U.S. Department of Defense, I tried to prove that the lion's share of that assistance is paid to U.S. companies operating in Ukraine. I was told that there are appropriate congressional resolutions stipulating that only U.S. companies can be granted financial assistance. I am an expert on issues of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament, however, and I know that for a very long period of time, Ukraine did not receive a single lousy dollar for the elimination of its nuclear arsenal, although this elimination was very favorable for the United States. After holding talks with me, a certain senior military official promised that as an exception, he would raise the issue of rendering financial assistance directly to Ukraine before the government structures.

[Yakubivskyy] What can you say about the results of your visit to China, particularly since the subject discussed there is closely connected with your profession?

[Pavlovskyy] Three states attended the symposium—Ukraine, China, and Russia. Mr. Komarov, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian National Space Agency, was there with me, thus our delegation was the largest one there, and was given an appropriate reception. The Chinese reacted very favorably to my speech, in which I suggested creating a joint association for space exploration comprising Ukraine, China, and Russia. At present, China has a most extended and comprehensive program for space exploration. That state has already launched commercial satellites for Germany and France. However, the level of scientific research in that area is higher in Ukraine than China. Our accord is more likely, given that the United States does not have a strong desire to initiate our states into the latest achievements of space technology. Thus, we should band together. At the Space Academy, the appropriate ministry, the Independent Association of Space Exploration, even the Chinese legislature, all our proposals were received with understanding. Five major directions for our joint activities were determined—new materials and technologies; the creation of ground appliances and test-stands for testing movable objects; new methods of launching satellites and placing them in orbit (Ukraine has a very interesting program in this field not involving the use of launching sites); and nuclear power engineering. Chinese specialists are working very vigorously in that area, and our cooperation could be very advantageous. Or take, for instance, the problem of dumping nuclear waste. Both sides have an interest in it—China has necessary funds for important scientific trends, however lacks qualified specialists; Ukraine is rich in the latter. We are trying to engage our embassy in China in that process.

[Yakubivskyy] My next question is related to the competence of your legislative commission. G-7 experts have recently visited the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. What were the results of their visit? We know that the visitors, just as many others before them, demanded that the power plant be shut down, for it is a source of ecological danger. However, nobody is going to compensate our state for the losses caused by that step.

[Pavlovskyy] Yes, however the G-7 experts have seen for themselves that security standards at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant are even higher than at similar plants in Russia. Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov explained to the visitors that the plant could be closed down, yet something has to be done with tens of thousands of people working there. What will the residents of Slavutych do, given that a majority of them are nuclear specialists? Besides, where will we get electricity? Would it not be better to build new safer units at the station? Mothballing the station is a very expensive undertaking—it would cost trillions of karbovantsi. Nevertheless, foreign envoys are unanimously urging the plant's immediate shutdown. Another serious question arises: Is there an alternative to nuclear power engineering at present? By thoroughly analyzing the current state of things in the energy sector we come to the unambiguous conclusion—we have no choice at this point.

There is another aspect to this problem. Our state has large prospected deposits of uranium ore, sufficient for 150 years. Instead of buying nuclear fuel from Russia, we should manufacture it in Ukraine. Once we have mastered this process, we could receive huge hard currency profits by selling nuclear fuel. Meanwhile, we continue to sell the ore at dirt-cheap prices. Its price covers only 10 percent of our nuclear fuel expenditures.

Belarus

President Visits Homel, Views 'Vertical Chain of Power'

WS0112154494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 1 Dec 94

[Report by Valeriy Sidorchik on visit to Homel by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on 1 December]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 0900 [0700 GMT] sharp, the presidential motorcade appeared in downtown Homel. Although the city is not small [word indistinct], the arrival of the Republic's leader would always be a great event here connected with certain changes. Many people have already learned about today's major event, which is the appointment of a new chairman of the oblast Executive Committee. There have been many predictions as to who would be appointed to this position by the president. However, the president, who was the first to take the floor when the [Executive Committee] session opened, proposed a well-known man—Pavel Uladzimiravich Shypuk, director of the Homel-based Homelshklo joint- stock company, better known as the Homel Lomonosov glass factory. Following a short discussion, the candidacy of the new oblast Executive Committee was approved unanimously. [passage omitted]

The session's work lasted more than three hours, and immediately after the session, the president gave an exclusive interview to our radio.

[Begin recording] [Sidorchik] Valeriy Sidorchik, correspondent of...

[Lukashenka, interrupting] I know Valeriy Sidorchik by his reports from Homel Oblast.

[Sidorchik] Another week has passed, representing another stage in building the vertical chain of presidential power. Are you pleased with its results?

[Lukashenka] Judging by the work in three oblasts, I am not only pleased, but I am simply glad that everything happened in a normal way, and that we have formed this vertical chain of power. I am glad that I was supported by people in the oblasts. I am glad that the people trust me. This is another chance for me to convince myself that it is worth working for those people, and to do my very best. Those people, who told me not to pay too much attention to the media's attempts to agitate the situation, were correct. People understand what is going on in the Belarusian Republic. I am pleased with this. As for the results, you can see them. You can only be pleased when power is peacefully delegated from one man to another.

[Sidorchik] What are the deadlines for this work? When will the creation [of a vertical chain of power] be completed?

[Lukashenka] This is very important. I am glad that you asked this question. First, before my visit to Budapest, to where I am traveling on Sunday [4 December] to participate in the CSCE conference...[Lukashenka pauses] we have completed work in three oblasts. Tomorrow will be devoted to an analysis and planning of our activities in this direction in other oblasts, as well as in Minsk. Upon my return from Budapest, within the next week I believe, I will resolve the problem concerning the president and the creation of the vertical chain of presidential power. This includes Hrodno, Brest, Minsk, and Vitebsk Oblasts. We will appoint heads there, particularly since candidates have already been determined. [passage omitted] [end recording]

President's Spokesman Briefs on Security Council Meeting

WS0212113194 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 30 Nov 94 pp 1,5

[Report by Vital Tsyhankow: "The President Needs Better Security, and Belarus—the 'Partnership for Peace'"—first paragraph published in boldface]

[FBIS Translated Text] A traditional "Tuesday" meeting between Alyaksandr Fyaduta and journalists was held at the Supreme Soviet press center. The chief of the Public and Political Information Administration shared his opinions on recent events with representatives of the mass media.

As the most important event Fyaduta selected the president's statement on economic policy, which, according to him, "demonstrated the president's friendly attitude toward the path to a welfare market." As everyone knows, Alyaksandr Lukashenka is to begin formation of "the vertical chain of power" this week. In this regard he will attend sessions of the Vitsebsk, Mahilyow, and Homel Oblast Soviets, at which he will present his candidates for administration leaders. However, except for the already known candidate from Vitsebsk—Uladzimir Andreychanka— Mr. Fyaduta refused to name other candidates.

Alyaksandr Fyaduta reported on the latest Security Council meeting (held on Monday evening), at which it was decided that Belarus should join the "Partnership for Peace" program. "We understand all the ambiguity of attitudes toward this program in our country and states which are our natural allies. In the opinion of the Security Council, our accession to the program will not endanger Belarus' neutrality," Fyaduta stated.

A SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA correspondent then asked about the president's apparent pro-Western attitude. In response, Alyaksandr Iosifavich jocularly said the following: "Since our eastern neighbor, friend, comrade, and brother has already joined the program, it is very interesting who is more pro-Western—Belarus or Russia?" Fyaduta emphasized that the president had reaffirmed of the pro-Russian orientation of his political line, and in this case "we are proceeding on the same path as Russia." It should be recalled that all Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union have already joined the "Partnership."

Mr. Fyaduta also touched upon the third item on the Security Council agenda—a debate on stepping up the battle against crime. According to Fyaduta, participants in the meeting noted that organized crime has been politicized, and that a market for criminal services has been formed within the CIS. They proposed an entire range of concrete measures, but the Public and Political Information Administration chief declined to reveal them. He did inform the press, however, that "in connection with information obtained by competent bodies, the Security Council resolved to take additional measures for strengthening the security of the president and his family" (by the way, the Security Council meeting was, as always, chaired by Alyaksandr Lukashenka). When I asked him what grounds there are to make such a decision and which forces and organizations pose a threat to our highest authority, Mr. Fyaduta responded that he is not a Security Council member, and had not been authorized to answer such questions. Finally, Fyaduta publicly apologized for a recent incident that took place at the Academy of Sciences, when, due to his administration's fault, certain reporters were denied access to the conference room in which the president was delivering a speech.

Government Members Brief on Pricing Policy, Belgian Visit

WS0212102394 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 30 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Yuras Karmanaw: "Mikhail Chyhir: 'I Hope That the President Will Agree To Revise Current Prices for Foodstuffs'"—first paragraph published in boldface]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government's regular news conference attended by Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir and Deputy Prime Minister Syarhey Linh was dedicated to the pricing policy and the results of a Belarusian delegation's visit to Brussels.

Pricing Policy Will Be Revised

Immediately after the well-known presidential edict on lowering prices had been issued, Mikhail Chyhir stated that this was a political step rather than an economic one. He then even specified losses that Belarus will suffer from the president's actions—100 billion [Belarusian] rubles [BR]. At the news conference, the prime minister noted that the situation in the country has forced the government to return to the issue of pricing, primarily with regard to foodstuffs. In the opinion of M. Chyhir, this was caused by the fact that prices for food in Russia, the Baltics, and Ukraine are much lower than those in Belarus. For comparison, he provided relations between prices in Moscow and Minsk as of 15 November (in Russian rubles [R]): The price for beef was R4,078 in Moscow, in Minsk—R1,639; boiled sausage—R2,175 in Minsk against R10,332 in Moscow, etc. As a result of this difference, the transfer of foodstuffs from Belarus to neighboring countries is increasing, which on the eve of winter may affect supplies of foodstuffs, particularly diary products. The Cabinet of Ministers thus requested that the president revise prices for foodstuffs. "So far we have received no positive response from the president. Taking into account that the Cabinet of Ministers allotted BR15 billion for assistance to the most vulnerable segments of society last week, and the planned budget expenditures provide every reason to believe that this sum will be increased, I think that the president will support the idea of revising our pricing policy," M. Chyhir said.

The following question also arises in this regard: What are the current prices for foodstuffs (except for bakery and dairy products), since they are considered to be free, which the government has repeatedly stated. Commenting on this issue, M. Chyhir noted that current prices can be considered free only conventionally: "As was the case before, current prices do not cover producers' costs, not to mention the maintenance of agricultural equipment. Moreover, prices for energy sources are the main factor in pricing."

Having recalled the budget subsidies for municipal services (BR135 billion), transport (BR46 billion), and fuel (BR121 billion), the prime minister informed that it has been planned to spent BR9 billion on housing for servicemen alone. It has also been planned to allot BR18 billion at the end of this week, to cancel the denomination of citizens' bank deposits and return them to the status as it was on 1 January 1991. "I do not know why the attorney general made a press statement in this regard, since we envisioned this step during a debate on our anti-crisis program, which was also attended by [Attorney General] Vasil Shaladonaw," M. Chyhir noted.

President May Visit Brussels Next January

Syarhey Linh told journalists that during its visit to Belgium, the Belarusian delegation held a number of talks with Belgian officials and EC representatives. In January of 1995, the Belarusian president is to pay a visit to Brussels, where he is supposed to sign an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Belarus and the EC. The agreement provides for increased quotas for selling Belarusian textiles on European markets and cancellation of antidumping sanctions on potash fertilizers, which the Republic intends to deliver to European markets in their previous volume.

During the visit, the Belarusian delegation was told that EC has allotted $3 million for liquidating the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster in the form of humanitarian aid.

In the framework of Belarusian-Belgian negotiations, the Belarusian delegation met with the Belgian prime minister. The two sides discussed prospects for economic cooperation and reached an agreement on establishing working groups, which are to draft agreements between Belarus and Belgium on economic cooperation, avoiding double taxation, protection of investments, and transport cooperation. This agreements are also expected to be signed during the Belarusian president's visit to Belgium. During talks held at the regional level, the sides discussed prospects for establishing Belarusian-Belgian joint-venture companies.

Retired Generals Accuse Lukashenka of Favoritism

MK0112134094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 5

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko under the "Belorussia" rubric: "Generals Accuse President of Reviving Oprichnina"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Six retired Belorussian [Belarus] generals led by former Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy have turned to President Alyaksandr Lukashenka in an open letter warning that "making their way into the presidential entourage are semi-competent and immoral people who are trying to bring into reality their career hopes by reviving the oprichnina [Ivan the Terrible's administrative elite]." [passages omitted]

The president is coming under increasing criticism for his personnel policy from the right wing and the left. On 30 November, Hennadiy Karpenko, leader of the Party of People's Accord and Alyaksandr Lukashenka's former presidential election rival, accused the new team that has come to power of "a massive breakdown of the management apparatus in ministries and departments" and of moving to the capital, without any grounds, personnel from Mogilev Oblast, the president's home turf. Personnel, Mr. Karpenko believes, who often lack professionalism but are devoted to the president. Incidentally, Mogilev Oblast has never been among the front-ranking as regards either the economic or social spheres. The mounting attacks from a number of former high officials hostile toward Alyaksandr Lukashenka have forced the president to put the problem of personal security to a Security Council discussion. The ranks of Alyaksandr Lukashenka's personal security service have swelled several times over in recent several months. Not so long ago, in the Stanislaw Shushkewich times, only two security men could be seen beside the head of state.

Moldova

Snegur Meets Leaders in Brussels

AU0112213394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 30/11/1994—Yesterday, President Mircea Snegur returned to Chisinau after a 2- day visit in Belgium. On the first day of his visit, he met with Chislain Lenaers, Group GI [expansion unknown] companies director. Snegur proposed the creation of joint ventures, in particular in the agricultural products processing industry. On the same day, Snegur signed the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement Between Moldova and the European Union (EU). In his speech on this occasion, Snegur expressed his hope that the EU and its member-states "will not be indifferent toward the withdrawal of the 14th Army temporarily located in Moldova." Klaus Kinkel, EU Council chairman, stated that the eastern districts are integral part of Moldova. The first day of the visit concluded with a meeting between President Snegur and European Commission deputy chairman H. Cristophersen who said that beginning December 7 Moldova will be able to use ECU 25 million of the ECU 45 million credit granted to ensure the balance of payments. On the second day, Snegur met with Willy Klaas, NATO secretary general. Klaas greeted the signing of the 14th Army's withdrawal agreement adding that it should be carried out following international norms. Snegur requested NATO's help in working out programs for conversion of military plants and other scientific projects, the necessary assistance being provided. Snegur also met with European Commissioner Hans Van Den Broek and Belgian Premier Jean-Luc Dehaene. During this latter meeting Snegur said that a friendship and cooperation treaty should be signed between Moldova and Belgium as a foundation for ascending relations between the two countries, relays the presidential press service.

Discusses NATO Cooperation

LD0112231394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 1 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NATO can support moves taken by the Moldovan leaders for maintaining peace and stability in the region, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur told the Moldovan Security Council when reporting on his visit to Brussels.

He said he had discussed possible cooperation with NATO also within the scope of the Partnership for Peace program during his meeting with NATO Secretary General Willy Klaas.

Snegur said his visit to Brussels was a success in general. He said an agreement on cooperation and partnership with the EU had been signed during his visit which "will contribute to integration of Moldova with this European mechanism." He proposed that a special envoy be appointed to the Moldovan Embassy to Belgium who would be responsible for developing relations with the EU. Snegur said work on drafting a treaty on friendship and cooperation between Moldova and Belgium had begun. Snegur said the treaty aimed at attracting investments and avoiding dual taxation. He added that an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of science, education and culture was also being worked on. Snegur said he believed that the documents could be signed in the near future.

Snegur said he had informed the high-ranking officials with who he had met in Brussels on the political and social situation in Moldova. He said the political situation in Moldova was stable and "contributing to implementation of the market reforms." He said he had also discussed the situation with human rights and rights of ethnic minorities with the Belgian prime minister and the NATO secretary general. Snegur stressed that various structures for protecting these rights had been created in Moldova within the scope of the executive and legislative powers.

Snegur highly appraised the contribution of the CSCE to eliminating the armed conflict in Transdniestria. He said he addressed the Belgian leaders and several international organizations with a request to control the implementation of the agreement on withdrawing the Russian 14th Army from Moldova. Snegur said the 14th Army must be withdrawn from Moldova during the next three years. He said he believed that the issue of the status of the Moldovan eastern regions "could and must be resolved before the last Russian soldier leaves the republic."

Snegur also said he was in favor of urgently resolving the issue of the legal status of the regions mostly populated by Gagauz and announced that he had sent an official letter to the parliament proposing that the appropriate draft law be approved in the second reading as soon as possible.

Russia Reaffirms Peacekeeper Commitment

AU0112213494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 30/11/1994—Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian Vice Minister of Defence, addressed a declaration to the Joint Control Commission (CMC) made public during today's CMC session. Last week, Kondratyev visited Moldova. A CMC press release states that Kondratyev thanked CMC for its understanding of the difficulties faced by Russia in financing Russian peace keepers which made Moscow reduce its contingent to 630 people. He said that "Russia's obligations regarding its peace keeping mission in Dniester cannot be doubted. It was important that all sides wished to preserve the security zone within its current boundaries. We arrived to the conclusion that the peace keeping forces will be reduced simultaneously with the military observers' increasing activity. We hope that our proposal to use a certain number of Russian officers of the military units subject to reduction and which will be withdrawn from Dniester will allow the Joint Command to settle a series of problems," said Kondratyev. He said these soldiers and officers will be transferred under Russian peace keeping forces' subordination and thus the 14th Army's neutral status stipulated in the July 21 1994 Moldovan-Russian agreement will be preserved.

Andronic Sees Force as 'Complication'

LD0212111094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] December 2 TASS—The proposal to bring international peacekeeping forces into the zone of the Dniester conflict, made at a session of the North Atlantic Assembly by deputy speaker of the Moldavian [Moldovan parliament Nikolae Andronic may complicate Moscow-Kishinev relations. This opinion is shared by Russian diplomats involved in the settlement of the Dniester problem.

Diplomats told ITAR-TASS they were perplexed, to say the least, at unilateral initiatives of the Moldavian leaders about bringing international "blue helmets" and international control over the 14th Army's withdrawal. In the opinion of the Russian side, this international control is not stipulated by the bilateral agreement on the army's withdrawal that was signed by the heads of the governments in October.

The Moldavian side motivates its steps by "a real danger of the aggravation in the Dniester region". Andronic believes this danger arose after Russia last week unilaterally reduced its peacekeeping contingent. Russian peacekeeping forces were brought into the area in 1992, after Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur signed in Moscow an agreement on a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Out of the six Russian peacekeeping battalions only two remain stationed in the dividing safety zone. The Russian leadership explains this reduction by the stabilisation in the region and the shortage of the funds for the upkeep of forces.

In his interview to ITAR-TASS Andronic denied that "Moldavia's unilateral initiatives about bringing in international 'blue helmets' and for international control over the 14th Army withdrawal will complicate relations with Moscow and may have a negative effect on the Moldavian economy whose lion's share is oriented at the use of Russian energy carriers, at Russian raw materials and Russian markets".

"We are grateful to Russia for having complied with the agreement on the Dniester at the first stage", the parliamentary deputy speaker said. But later "The Russian side grossly violated these agreements, permitting the formation of three battalions of separatists in the safety zone for which it is responsible", Andronic said. He also did not rule out "Moscow's wish to have the repetition of what happened in Georgia". To confirm this view, he pointed to the proposal to transform the 14th Army into a Russian military base, which was made last week by the army's commander, Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed.

General Lebed believes that the efforts for the army's withdrawal were premature. The authorities of the Dniester region in whose territory Russian troops are stationed do not recognise the agreement on their withdrawal, claim the army property and have recently tightened the watch over the army's units. "When arms and ammunition withdrawal is attempted, pickets of women and the aged will be formed. They object to Russian troop withdrawal as they fear that war may flare up again", Lebed said. "The personnel of the army, consisting mostly of men coming from local places will stay on. So instead of a well-controlled and organised army, a well- armed, well-trained and unpredictable military force will be present in the heartland of Europe. As long as the army stays on, I can guarantee that there will be no leakage of armaments," Lebed said.

In an interview to ITAR-TASS, the commander of the 14th Army proposed that "there should be a status quo in the region and the situation should be kept under control by preserving the military- political balance in the region".

Speaker of the Moldavian parliament Petr Luchinskiy declared on Thursday in favour of coordinating with Russia Kishinev's initiatives regarding the international control over the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army at the upcoming conference of heads of member-countries of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Duma Delegation Visits Dniester, 'Familiarizes'

AU0112213294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 30/11/1994—Late last week, a group of Russian State Duma deputies, headed by Konstantin Zasulin, chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Commission for CIS Affairs, visited Tiraspol. They visited the 14th Army command and met with Aleksandr Lebed. According to military experts, the Russian deputies wanted to familiarize with the situation in Dniester for a future report in the State Duma. They also meet with Dniester President Igor Smirnov and Dniester Supreme Soviet Chairman Grigore Maracuta. Today, General Eduard Vorobyev, former head of the Russian military experts in the negotiations on the 14th Army's withdrawal, arrived in Tiraspol. 14th Army command sources relay that Vorobyev will conduct an investigation on the recent arrest of a counter-intelligence officer for alleged collaboration with the Dniester secret services.

Kazakhstan

Paper Views Problems of Defense Industry Conversion

LD0112184994 Almaty KHALYK KENESI in Kazakh 23 Nov 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] A few years ago the V.I. Lenin heavy engineering industrial complex which used to produce SS-20 rockets was converted into a production association containing several plants. In fact the industry's workshops were turned into separate plants. The only difference was that each new plant acquired its own management, accounting, and supervision apparatus. Production, engineers, and workers have lost, however. In the present difficult circumstances the number of people involved in the production process is being cut while the management staff are hardly touched.

V. Yefremov, director general of the enterprise, is visiting foreign countries and allegedly seeking a way out of the crisis. Success is modest, however. For example, during his visit to Turkey he agreed to produce buttons. No one knows how reasonable it is to make buttons on machines which are supposed to make spare parts for rockets. Besides, this "innovation" can provide only 100-150 people with jobs. The results of V. Yefremov's other trips, for which he uses the state's money, are about the same.

According to economists the intellectual potential of the V.I. Lenin enterprise is good enough to work out a business plan and ask the government for a credit in foreign currency to implement a concrete project. [passage omitted]

The heads of other plants are doing their best to get out of the crisis. The Kuybyshev and Kirov industries, which were flourishing a few years ago, are in quite a difficult situation now. The main problem is again funds. Although at the moment the government cannot satisfy the enterprises' need for money, the commission sent to the region by President Nazarbayev after his own visit in October this year proposed using internal reserves and opportunities to solve the problem.

One of the ways out is to ease the instruction on changing foreign currency earned by the defense enterprises to tenge. According to this instruction enterprises are obliged to change at least half of their foreign currency incomes to tenge. The main partners of the enterprises we are talking about are in Russia. The only foreign currency they receive is the Russian ruble. Half of these Russian-ruble incomes must be changed to tenge. The other half of the money is not enough to maintain the necessary cooperation with Russian partners. So enterprises are forced to make another change—this time to change the tenge into the Russian ruble. By any accounts this is an absolute nonsense. So the existing currency exchange instruction is causing big trouble for the defense enterprises. The commission headed by G. Abilseytov promised to raise this issue in Alma-Ata [Almaty] saying that the National Bank will not object to rendering assistance in this case.

The commission paid particular attention to the following matter, and G. Abilseytov considered this a main issue. Just like every defense enterprise these plants have mobilization stocks in case of war or any other extraordinary events. These stocks contain considerable material reserves. There is a strict ban on touching these reserves in peace time. As the heads of the plants admit, if they were used now it would be a substantial help to enterprises. Members of the commission agreed with this opinion.

They did not just agree but considered this a most appropriate solution in present conditions. So according to G. Abilseytov the enterprises should be allowed to use 80 percent of their emergency reserves. He also added that he was intending to submit this proposal to the Cabinet of Ministers. [passage omitted]

Karaganda Electricity for Solvent Enterprizes Only

LD0212102594 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0900 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Power engineering stations of Karaganda produced an extra 42,820,000 kWh on top of their plan. Amid all the industry's troubles, this is an encouraging piece of information. Nevertheless, the Karaganda power engineering workers are not in a position to improve their situation all by themselves. Since the beginning of winter, consumers owe them 6 billion tenge for heating. A decision has been made that from now on the Karaganda power station will deliver electricity to solvent enterprizes only.

Trade Targets With Russian Company Approved for 1995

LD0112154494 Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Kanat Turapov, chairman of the board of the Kazkontrakt joint stock company, carried in the KAZAKHSTANSKIYE NOVOSTI Saturday supplement]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of the last week of November, working meetings of representatives of the Kazkontrakt and Roskontrakt joint stock companies were held in Moscow within the framework of intergovernmental negotiations. They discussed the principles and approaches of mutual supplies of the most important products in 1995.

It is well known that because of Kazakhstan's major debts to Russian suppliers in 1993 for fuels and lubricants supplied to rural areas, trade this year between our republics has been noticeably reduced. Therefore, the preliminary results of the meetings are encouraging—it seems that an understanding of the need for partnership and mutual payments has been found.

Draft agreements on mutual supplies of the most important goods in 1995 and the conditions and procedures for selling them have been approved. The volumes of such supplies from both sides are put at approximately $530 million. Russia is planning to supply 600,000 [metric] tonnes of petrol, 750,000 tonnes of diesel fuel, 300,000 tonnes of furnace fuel oil, 100,000 railroad ties, timber, chemical, and paper products, and a significant amount of various engineering products to Kazakhstan. Moreover it is proposed to import them to the republic without collecting customs duties and the same will apply to Kazakh goods imported to Russia.

The Kazakh side will supply the Russian Federation with traditional goods: nonferrous metals, ferroalloys, metal rolled products, cotton, grain, and so on. The needs of the AKPO (Aktau), Propilen (Atirau), and Fosfor (Chimkent) joint stock societies for ethyl benzene and other primary chemical raw materials in exchange for polymer materials which are shipped by production practice to Russian enterprises have been taken into account in the "framework contracts".

It is especially necessary to note in the agreement on conditions of supplies that in the absence of centralized sources of finance, it is intended to implement mutual supplies by attracting commercial credits and finance from the Kazkontrakt joint stock company and the customers. Moreover, property accountability for the results of the implementation of the mutual obligations is placed directly on the Roskontrakt and Kazkontrakt economic entities.

The agreement achieved between the Kazakh and Russian sides on settling debts for petroleum products received for state needs should be considered a reassuring symptom of the feasibility of mutual goods supplies next year. Roskontrakt has given its consent to defer payments for five years, with repayment to begin in 1998.

The implementation of these agreements will undoubtedly help to increase the flow of goods between the two states and soften the financial deficit tension in the republic.

Kyrgyzstan

Delegation Discusses Political, Economic Ties in Tokyo

LD0112152694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0600 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation led by Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov is visiting Tokyo to take part in the first joint meeting of the intergovernmental economic committees of Kyrgyzstan and Japan, the republican government's press service reports. Further strengthening of political and economic relations between the two countries is being discussed there. Resolving these issues will require financial support from some Japanese corporations.

Our delegation includes Transport Minister Madybek Oblesov [name and title as heard], Trade and Material Resources Minister Andrey Iordan, and other officials.

Broadcasters Sign Agreements With Russians

LD0112160294 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1000 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A ceremony for signing agreements on television broadcasting and on other fields between the Kyrgyz State National Television and Radio Company and the social and economic radio broadcasting of the Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company Ostankino was held today. The agreements were signed by Abdilamit Matisakov, the president of the Kyrgyz State National Television and Radio Company, and Gennadiy Shepetko, the vice chairman of the Ostankino television and radio company, for Russia. The signing of the agreements was held in a friendly and harmonious manner.

Statistics on Food Costs in Four Republics

LD0112184094 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA: DELOVOY CHETVERG in Russian 26 Nov 94 p2

[FBIS Translated Text] The cost of general foodstuffs in January - October:

Kyrgyz Republic: (i) Name of foodstuffs (ii) Unit of measurement (iii) Monthly norms of consumption, kg (iv) Retail price in October in a) soms b) Russian rubles: rate is 1 som = 280 roubles (v) Actual cost in October in a) soms b) Russian rubles:

			(iv)		(v)	
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(ivA	(ivB)	(vA)	(vB)
Beef	kg	0.91	9.0	2506.00	8.14	2280.46
Mutton	kg	1.07	10.5	2942.80	11.25	3148.80
Sausage boiled (half smoked)	kg	0.3	22.6	6319.60	6.77	1895.88
Butter	kg	0.25	23.7	6624.80	5.92	1656.20
Milk	l	5.78	1.9	523.60	10.81	3026.41

			(iv)		(v)	
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(ivA	(ivB)	(vA)	(vB)
Sour cream	kg	0.25	11.3	3152.80	2.82	788.20
Curds	kg	0.64	4.7	1307.60	2.99	836.86
Black tea	kg	0.5	21.5	6008.80	10.73	3004.40
Eggs	1	13.8	0.8	226.80	11.14	3118.50
Vegetable oil	kg	0.85	18.5	5171.60	15.70	4395.86
Flour best grade	kg	0.15	2.2	610.40	0.33	91.56
Flour first grade	kg	3.87	2.1	576.80	7.97	2232.22
White bread high quality	kg	0.21	2.9	803.60	0.60	168.76
White bread first grade	kg	5.41	2.6	722.40	13.96	3908.18
Pasta	kg	0.44	4.7	1316.00	2.07	579.04
Rice	kg	0.41	3.0	834.40	1.22	342.10
Sugar	kg	1.6	7.3	2035.60	11.63	3256.96
Potatoes	kg	5.07	1.4	392.00	7.10	1987.44
Onion	kg	3.31	1.8	495.60	5.96	1640.44
Cabbage	kg	1.35	1.1	301.40	1.46	408.24

Uzbekistan: (iv) Retail price in October in a) soms b) Russian rubles: rate is 1 som = 118 rubles (v) Actual cost in October in Russian roubles:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(ivA)	(ivB)	(v)
Beef	kg	0.91	15.00	1770.00	1610.70
Mutton	kg	1.07	15.00	1770.00	1893.90
Sausage boiled half smoked	kg	0.3	40.00	4720.00	1416.00
Butter	kg	0.25	36.00	4248.00	1062.00
Milk	1	5.78	2.20	259.60	1500.49
Cream	kg	0.25	16.00	1888.00	472.00
Curds	kg	0.64	9.60	1132.80	724.99
Black tea	kg	0.5	55.20	6513.60	3256.80
Eggs	1	13.8	1.11	130.98	1800.98
Oil	kg	0.85	10.00	1180.00	1003.00
Flour best grade	kg	0.15	4.50	531.00	79.65
Flour first grade	kg	3.87	3.50	413.00	1598.31
White bread of high quality	kg	0.21	3.60	424.80	89.21
White bread of first grade	kg	5.41	2.80	330.40	1787.46
Macaroni foods	kg	0.44	13.50	1593.00	700.92
Rice	kg	0.41	5.70	672.60	275.77
Sugar	kg	1.6	6.00	708.00	1132.80
Potatoes	kg	5.07	3.50	413.00	2093.91
Onion	kg	3.31	2.50	295.00	976.45
Cabbage	kg	1.35	1.50	177.00	238.95

Kazakhstan: (iv) Retail price in October in a) tenge b) Russian rubles: rate is 1 tenge = 61.54 rubles (v) Wholesale price in October in rubles

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)		(v)
			(ivA)	(ivB)	
Beef	kg	0.91	46.00	2830.84	2576.06
Mutton	kg	1.07	43.00	2646.22	2631.46
Sausage boiled half smoked	kg	0.3	109.00	6707.86	2012.36
Butter	kg	0.25	100.00	6154.00	1538.50
Milk	l	5.78	7.50	461.55	2667.76
Cream	kg	0.25	43.00	2646.22	661.56
Curds	kg	0.64	34.00	2092.36	1339.11
Black tea	kg	0.5	166.00	10215.64	5107.82
Eggs	l	13.8	2.50	153.85	2115.44
Oil	kg	0.85	65.00	4000.10	3400.09
Flour best grade	kg	0.15	10.37	638.17	2565.44
Flour first grade	kg	3.87	—	—	—
White bread high quality	kg	0.21	16.00	984.64	206.77
White bread first grade	kg	5.41	10.00	615.40	3458.55
Macaroni foods	kg	0.44	25.00	1538.50	676.94
Rice	kg	0.41	11.00	676.94	377.55
Sugar	kg	1.6	35.00	2153.90	3146.24
Potatoes	kg	5.07	11.00	676.94	3433.09
Onion	kg	3.41	20.00	1280.00	4073.95
Cabbage	kg	1.35	12.00	738.48	96.95

Russia: (iv) Retail price in October in rubles (v) Actual cost in October in rubles

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
Beef	kg	0.91	4074.00	8066.52
Mutton	kg	1.07	—	—
Sausage boiled half smoked	kg	0.3	6913.00	2073.90
Butter	kg	0.25	4566.00	1141.50
Milk	l	5.78	659.00	3809.02
Cream	kg	0.25	3258.00	814.50
Curds	kg	0.64	3220.00	2060.80
Black tea	kg	0.5	8468.00	4234.00
Eggs	l	13.8	153.90	2116.13
Oil	kg	0.85	3233.00	2748.05
Flour best grade	kg	0.15	770.00	3095.40
Flour first grade	kg	3.87	—	—
White bread high quality	kg	0.21	1239.00	260.19
White bread first grade	kg	5.41	758.00	4100.78

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
Beef	kg	0.91	4074.00	8066.52
Macaroni foods	kg	0.44	2189.0	963.16
Rice	kg	0.41	908.00	372.28
Sugar	kg	1.6	1458.00	2332.80
Potatoes	kg	5.07	556.00	2818.92
Onion	kg	3.41	1508.00	4991.48
Cabbage	kg	1.35	790.00	1066.50

Tajikistan

CIS Peacekeeping Forces Commander Opposes Withdrawal

LD0112120294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The CIS collective peacekeeping forces must not be withdrawn from Tajikistan in the next few years, believes Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the peacekeeping forces. If the peacekeeping contingent is withdrawn from Tajikistan, the republic will turn into today's Afghanistan, where an war between clans is under way, Valeriy Patrikeyev said in a conversation with a group of Russian journalists. According to the general, the Tajik army is not ready to repel external aggression, while the republic's border troops are still being formed.

Miltants Detained, Situation Tense on Afghan Border

LD0212100594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe December 2 TASS—Three militants from the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan (IRMT) were detained in one of border areas guarded by the Kalaikhoub border detachment in the Pamirs sector on Thursday night.

One of the IRMT's influential field commanders, Gayur, was killed when crossing the Tajik-Afghan border on Wednesday. Found on him were documents and photographs of members of armed groups of the opposition. These are indicative of Tajik rebels' involvement in the attack on the posts of the 12th border picket of the Moskovskiy border-guarding detachment, a spokesmen at the press centre of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan told ITAR-TASS on Friday.

The situation on the border still remains tense. State Duma members, who visited the border picket, saw that for themselves. It was noted that new groups of militants had appeared in a number of border villages of the Afghan Badakhshan. Arms, ammunition and food for rebels have been brought to the border line from Talukan. Field commander Khakim Bangi, who earlier had lived in southern Tajikistan, is now in charge of the provision of military equipment. Concentrations of armed groups were also spotted in the Shuroabad sector.

Karimov Appointed as New Prime Minister

LD0212115494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1129 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By TIA Khovar correspondent Zayniddin Nasriddinov for TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 2 Dec—Dzhamshed Karimov has been appointed to the post of Tajikistan's prime minister. President Emomali Rakhmanov today signed a decree to this effect.

The new prime minister is 54 years old. He is a doctor of economics. Until now he has held the post of chief adviser to the head of state.

Rakhmanov Addresses New Session of Tajik Parliament

LD0112172394 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As we have already reported, the 21st session of the Supreme Council of the 12th convocation started work at 1000 today. [passage omitted]

Musoyeva, chairman of the committee on state structures under the Supreme Council, reported on the first issue—the draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on elections to the Tajik Supreme Council. The speaker noted that the draft of this law has been considered in the Supreme Council's committees, in consultations with people's representatives and with the Presidium of the Supreme Council. A great number of deputies commented on this issue.

Deputy Safarali Kenjayev said that the draft has some shortcomings and imperfections. In particular, it does not include nomination of candidates for the Supreme Council by trades unions and public organizations, yet this draft law gives town and district councils the right to nominate. [passage omitted]

President Emomali Rakhmanov made a speech on this issue at the session of people's deputies. He stressed: We will create a law-based constitutional republic accepted by the world. For this reason, people's deputies are asked to acknowledge their serious responsibility in approving every resolution and law necessary for the future of the republic.

Emomali Rakhmanov also told those present that the normalization of the situation provides the opportunity to implement political solutions. The president will do his best to implement political solutions in order to establish peace and calm in the republic.

After some discussion, the deputies started approving this law section by section.

By noon, the first interval of the morning session, three sections of the draft had been approved. Other sections of the draft law are now under discussion.

Parliament Adopts Documents on Reforms

LD0112131294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva, Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe December 1 TASS—The Tajik parliament, which resumed its session today after a two-week interval, has adopted a package of documents aimed at improving the constitutional reform. The documents include a law on elections of deputies to local bodies of power, whose mandates expire in December, 1994, a law on the freedom of faith and religious rituals, and a law on pensions for Tajik servicemen.

Heated debates arose when a draft law was discussed on elections to the highest legislative body of power—the People's Assembly. A number of lawmakers declared that the draft law infringed on democratic freedoms in the system of nominating candidates, and in particular, the exclusion from this process of such big public organisations as trade unions, the union of young people and the council of women. The draft law submitted to the lawmakers for discussion stipulates that the right to nominate candidates to the People's Assembly was given to local bodies of power, political parties and work collectives numbering over 500. In this connection, debates continued by discussing each article separately, and will be resumed after an intermission.

The Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov addressed the parliament and called on the lawmakers to show restraint and carry on a constructive discussion of the draft bill for the sake of people's interests and the speediest economic and political revival of the country.

The agenda of the parliamentary session includes problems pertaining to a draft parliamentary resolution on priority measures aimed at the realization of the Tajik Constitution adopted at a nationwide referendum on November 6, and a draft resolution of the Tajik parliament on the structure of the Tajik Government.

Elections Set for 26 Feb 1995

LD0112184294 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today, the 21st session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan of the 12th convocation, resumed its work in Dushanbe after a two-week interval. [passage omitted]

The discussion of the first agenda item [adoption of the draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on elections to the Supreme Council of the republic] was continued in the afternoon session. Rafika Musoyeva, the chairman of the committee on state structure under the Supreme Council of the republic, submitted the draft law on elections of people's deputies to the authorities of local administration and members of parliament. The draft law has been prepared by the committees of the Supreme Council on state structure and legislation, law and order, and human rights. The people's deputies approved this law. [passage omitted]

Two other items were included on the session's agenda—the election day to the highest and local bodies, and the election of the members of the Central Electoral Commission. The Supreme Council adopted a decree on elections to be held on 26 February 1995. Homid Sharipov was approved as the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. The Supreme Council [words indistinct] relieved [word indistinct] of his post as the chairman of the Supreme Court. Ubaydullo Davlatov, who earlier worked at the high mediation court of the republic, was elected to this post. With this, the session concluded its work.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Unlikely To Attend CSCE Summit in Budapest

LD0112225594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 1 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sources in the president's entourage told Interfax that Saparmurad Niyazov was unlikely to go to Budapest to attend the CSCE summit where U.S. President Bill Clinton had invited him. (Turkmenian media published Clinton's letter Thursday expressing the hope that he would meet Niyazov at the meeting of CSCE heads of state to be opened on December 5).

Officially, the Niyazov visit has not been properly prepared but independent observers say that the Turkmenian authorities are disappointed because they expected Clinton to invite Niyazov to the U.S. IF Note: Niyazov was to the U.S. twice on private visits at the invitation of former secretary of state Alexander Haig.

The U.S. Administration had earlier shown interest in Niyazov's talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kuchma on November 4 and 5. Observers believe that it was the position of Clinton who pledged support to Ukrainian reforms and sent James Collins, chief coordinator on the CIS, to attend the Ukrainian-Turkmenian talks that made Turkmenistan agree to stretch out the payment of Ukraine's debts for gas deliveries.

Niyazov Regards Russia as 'Partner'

LD0212102194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0952 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] December 2 TASS—Turkmenistan regards Russia as a partner with whose assistance it can sooner assert economic independence and implement it fuller and get an opportunity to be integrated into the world economic system.

Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov said this in an interview to ITAR-TASS. He summed up the results of his recent visits to a number of European countries, above all, problems of bilateral economic ties. Establishing relations with European countries, Turkmenistan will never do anything to affect the interests of third countries, above all Russia, the president said.

Turkmenistan regards it as its duty to take into account Russia's interests in establishing relations with European and Asian partners, the president said. First of all, this is in Turkmenistan's own interests. Russia is situated in proximity to Turkmenistan, which is very important for the market. Second, Russia is in transition, just as all former union republics, and this makes for the sharing of expirience in reforming. Third, there is a special level of bilateral relations between Russia and Turkmenistan which, alongside politicial and economic interests, include mutual understanding and confidence, such as have not yet been achieved with other countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"I would also note our trusting personal relations with President Boris Yeltsin. I regard him as an experienced and staunch politician and reformer," Niyazov said. He also spoke highly of the relations with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and other Russian leaders.

"Stressing Russia's role as Turkmenistan's main partner, we view Russia as a great power. We do not deny profound spiritual and historical bonds between our peoples," Niyazov said. "But we also see Russia as a partner equal to us which is admitted also by Russia. It is precisely this equality and the absence of dependence, even in trifling matters, that enable Turkmenistan to decide itself on its top priorities."

The president noted that the main principles of Turkmenistan's foreign policy are openness, non-interference and mutually-advantageous partnership will all states. At the same time, also in its present efforts to establish ties in Eurasia, Turkmenistan assigns special place to Russia.

Russia's interests are taken into account in all Turkmenistan's strategic projects of development, fuel and energy projects, including the gas pipeline Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey-Europe, and in the communications projects, in the sphere of Eurasian transport, Niyazov said. He said that when concluding agreements during his recent trips to a number of European countries, he advanced terms ensuring Russia's interests and proposed specific versions of their furthering. For instance, Romania, being interested in Turkmenistan gas, will be receiving it in near future from the existing gas pipeline Turkmenistan-Russia. "The signing of virtually all arrangements was arrived at through the prism of Turkmenistan-Russian coordination," Niyazov said.

Turkmen-Kyrgyz Meeting Resolves Trade, Debt Issues

LD0112150694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0600 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Kyrgyz government's press service, the deputy prime ministers of Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan met in Ashgabat yesterday [30 November]. The Kyrgyz delegation was led by First Deputy Prime Minister Almambek Matubraimov, while Deputy Prime Minister Saparov took part in the meeting on the Turkmen side.

During the meeting, trade and economic cooperation between the two countries in 1995 was discussed, as was the problem of regulating of payment arrears relating to technical credit. Terms were set for paying off the debt. The finance ministers and the heads of the national banks of both countries took part in the meeting.

The agreement that the governments of the two countries signed on the former issue says that mutual deliveries of resources and goods will be carried out according to the principles of equality and mutual benefit by concluding contracts between the states and the economic entities in them, irrespective of their form of ownership. These deliveries will promote the maintenance of mutually beneficial economic links which have developed between the enterprises and the states.

Gas Supply Agreement Signed With Georgia, Armenia

LD0212124094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1101 GMT 2 Dec 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Glazovskaya and Anna Kurbanova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], 2 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Turkmenian gas is being supplied to the Transcaucasian republics. An agreement on this was reached today in Ashkhabad by Saparmurad Niyazov, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Eduard Shevardnadze and Azerbaijani Vice Premier Abbas Abbasov. The question of mutual settlements for gas supplies to those states was settled during the talks. Mutual guarantees of supplies and of payment for them in 1995 were received.

The meeting between the heads of the three states—Turkmenistan, Armenia and Georgia—resulted in a trilateral joint statement confirming mutual liability for honouring contractual commitments.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Issues Decree To Reform Tax System

LD0112174194 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 1 Dec 94 p1

[FBIS Translated Text]

Decree by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basic areas for reinforcing the incentive role of taxes in the Republic of Uzbekistan

1. The following shall be regarded as the most important areas of reforming the tax system during the formation of the 1995 state budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- reducing of the burden of taxation on legal persons;

- strengthening the role of taxes as incentives in increasing the volumes of production and the sales of products, extending entrepreneurial activity and investment activity, speeding up the circulation of money, and increasing profits;

- improving the structure of incomes by raising the portion of taxes on natural resources and property and strengthening their influence on the effectiveness of the use of resource and production potential;

- considerable increasing the proportion of local budgets in the republic's state budget by strengthening the income base of local budgets and a demarcation of taxes between the republican and local budgets;

- striving for the maximum simplification of the taxation mechanism and ensuring the stability of the tax system.

2. With the aim of ensuring the realization of these areas of improving the tax system from 1 January 1995:

2.1. The rate of Value Added Tax is reduced from 20 to 18 percent.

2.2. A tax on enterprise profits will replace the tax on enterprise takings with the maximum rate set at 38 percent;

2.3. The existing procedure of income tax and tax breaks for peasant farms, private enterprises, trade enterprises, and enterprises with foreign investments is preserved.

3. During collection of the tax on profits:

3.1. A reducing coefficient of 0.3 percent will be used against the set tax rate for each percent of growth of volumes of production of output (works, services) in comparable costs.

3.2. A reducing coefficient of 5 percent will be used when from 30 to 50 percent of balance profit is used for development, reconstruction and the technical re-equipment of production, and when over 50 percent of balance profit is used for these purposes the coefficient is 10 percent.

3.3. The existing procedure for tax exemption and granting privileges for newly created enterprises will be preserved;

3.4. Of money used from the profits of enterprises and organizations, irrespective of their form of ownership, aimed at housing, social, or cultural construction, 50 percent will be exempted from tax.

4. An increasing coefficient of 0.5 percent against the set tax rate will be introduced for each percent above the set level of profitability for monopoly enterprises.

5. The level of the wage fund, included in manufacturing costs and not subject to taxation, will be set at four times the level of the minimum wage.

It is established that the part of the wage fund which exceeds the set norm will be subject to profit tax at a progressive rate, reflecting the rate at which it exceeds the norm.

6. The following forms of taxes are abolished:

6.1. The tax on raw material resources and production exported from the Republic of Uzbekistan;

6.2. The tax on the wages funds of members of collective farms and the legislation on income tax on citizens which applied to them;

6.3. The confiscation of incomes from forestry.

7. It is established that the whole volume of depreciation deductions will remain at the disposal of enterprises.

8. The Cabinet of Ministers is given the right to approve the basic parameters of the 1995 state budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan once it has examined:

- the setting of new tax rates on natural resources which stimulate their effective utilization;

- the regulation of tax breaks;

- the redistribution of incomes for the benefit of local budgets and the setting of differentiated norms of contributions from state taxes, depending on the level of a territory's development;

- the introduction of amendments to the procedure for imposing fines for the infringement of tax legislation.

9. Point 3 of Decree No. 7-997 from 31 October 1994 is declared no longer valid as of 1 January 1995.

[signed] Uzbek President Islam Karimov

[dated] Tashkent, 30 November 1994.

Armenia

Government Appeals to People on 1 Dec Price Increases

NC0112134094 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1615 GMT 30 Nov 94

["Appeal by the government of the Armenian Republic to the people"—radio headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear compatriots, our country will be embarking on a new period of economic reforms as of 1 December. During this time, the measures to be implemented, particularly the sharp reduction of the budget deficit and regulation of the balance of payments, will first ensure economic stability and then economic growth and development.

This is the crucial phase in the transition to a market economy. It is that mandatory step that will make it possible to steadily raise the standard of living and bolster the country's defense capability, thereby leading to the consolidation of Armenian statehood on this land bequeathed to us.

The measures being implemented are the continuation of the government's economic policy, and [words indistinct] increase in the bread and energy prices. This step seen in isolation from the rest of reform package might not appear correct in societal terms. However, future reforms will be impossible and economic stability and development unrealizable if we do not give up the policy of subsidies and continue to have an abysmal budget deficit. In any case, that would not only not solve the economic problems, it also would not solve social problems.

While raising the price of one kilogram of bread to 66 Dram, the government is, at the same time, fully compensating all the employees at the budgetary organizations, unprotected strata of the population, pensioners, disabled, children, and unemployed for the increase in prices.

At the same time, the government has instructed the state-controlled enterprises to use their own funds to raise the wages of their workers.

Compensation is also to be given for the increase in electricity rates.

Once again noting the necessity of this step, the government declares with all the responsibility that this step was not imposed or urged by anyone, namely, the IMF. The government's program aimed at reforms and surmounting the economic crisis has gained the approval of both the IMF as well as other major international financial organizations and creditor countries. This was confirmed yet again during the Armenian Government delegation's meeting with the consultative group held in Paris on 22 November of this year. The aid promised to Armenia at that meeting is a confirmation of that approval and confidence.

The government is taking, and will take, every measure to prevent the possible negative consequences of the price increases in order to prevent a new decline in the standard of living of the population.

Dear compatriots, our people have experienced enormous difficulties and deprivations, which continue today. These difficulties and deprivations have not been in vain. We have achieved structural changes and land privatization. The privatization of the industrial and service sectors is in progress, and we have introduced and stabilized our own national currency under the collapse of trade and economic ties [between former Soviet republics], the blockade, the dearth of local energy and raw material resources, and under the exceedingly difficult conditions of undeclared war.

All of these could not have raised the living standards at one stroke. Rather, a substantial decline in the living standard took place. However, the worst has been left behind. Henceforth, each coming year will be substantially better then the preceding one. This is guaranteed not only by the achievements already accomplished through suffering but also by our nation's creative power and industriousness coupled with its patience and exceptional ability to brave the difficulties.

Raises Bread Prices, Electricity Tariffs

LD0112203794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1725 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Armenia raised prices for bread by 11 times and tariffs on electric power by six times on December 1, said the Armenian government's resolution circulated in Yerevan today.

The government's resolution said that the measure was necessary for implementing the recommendations made by the IMF granting credits to the republic.

Local experts said the present growth in prices and completely liberalizing prices in the future marked the beginning of implementation of a new program for economic reforms worked out jointly by the Armenian government and the IMF. The program aims at eliminating the budget deficit, stabilizing the national currency unit and developing the market economy.

Well-informed sources in Yerevan said the IMF would give to Armenia the first credit worth $25 million at around mid-December. The same sources said that Armenia expected to receive credits totalling $260 million from different financial organizations in 1995.

The Armenian government's resolution said that the Armenian authorities would pay compensations for the growth in prices to the least well-off categories of the population and employees of budget organizations from reserve funds of the Central Bank of Armenia. Compensation payments will be 11.2 billion drams.

"If we want to build market relations it is necessary to free prices and change the policy for establishing prices as a whole," Armenian Premier Grant Bagratyan said on national television on November 30. He said he believed that prices for other goods would not change significantly.

Bagratyan said the Armenian population would live in 1995 better than in 1994.

Stavropol To Send Gas Until Turkmen Supply Resumes

NC0112194994 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with an agreement between the Russian and Armenian governments, 2 million cubic meters of gas will be sent to Armenia daily from Stavropol pending the resumption of gas supplies from Turkmenistan.

Georgia

Parliament Discusses Harsh Statement on Abkhazia

LD0112144794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Georgian parliament started discussing a draft statement to be issued in response to a recent proclamation of sovereignty by Georgia's breakaway province of Abkhazia.

"Now that the separatists have adopted illegal (legislative) acts, Georgia has the full moral, political and legal right to use every means to restore its national sovereignty on its entire territory," says the draft, put before an emergency parliament session on Thursday.

Head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, urging the legislators to approve the document, said its text had been endorsed by parliament's leadership the day before.

Abkhazia's legislature on November 26 passed a constitution declaring the region a sovereign republic, a step rejected by Tbilisi, which refused to recognize Abkhazia's new status or have any talks with its leaders.

"There is no legitimate body on the territory of Abkhazia which is authorized to adopt a constitution on behalf of the people living in the republic," the draft statement, being considered behind closed doors, reads further on. "The separatists' decision to proclaim Abkhazia an independent state, the adoption of the constitution and the election of the president of Abkhazia cannot have any legal significance either within the country or in the context of international law. The legislation of Georgia will continue to apply in Abkhazia."

The session gave consideration to the economic situation in the country as well. Shevardnadze said he was leaving for Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan, on Friday to hold what would apparently be "rather difficult" talks with President Saparmurad Niyazov to negotiate natural gas imports. He also assured parliament that Russia would "in two or three days" formally agree to export more gas to Georgia.

State May Use 'Any Means' To Restore Order

LD0112180294 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1335 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Georgian Parliament has issued a statement today severely criticizing the adoption by the Abkhaz Supreme Council of a constitution that declares Abkhazia a sovereign state and subject of international law. The parliament appeals to the United Nations, the international community, including CIS member states, and all people of good will to support Georgia. What happened in Abkhazia is not Georgia's internal affair because the Abkhaz conflict was and still is being influenced by external factors. Events in Abkhazia may have dangerous repercussions in other states. The parliament states that the Georgian state has a full moral, political, and legal right to use any means to restore its jurisdiction on its entire territory.

UN Meeting on Abkhaz Constitution Urged

LD0112192394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1843 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 1 Dec—Georgia is calling for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to be convened in connection with the adoption of Abkhazia's new constitution. This is according to a letter from Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze that was released here today as a Security Council document.

"I ask for a meeting of the Security Council to be convened as a matter of urgency in so far as recent events in the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic may have unpredictable results and lead to a further escalation of the conflict," E. Shevardnadze noted.

Georgia regards the adoption on 26 November of a new constitution of Abkhazia, proclaiming it a sovereign republic and a subject of international law, as a step aimed at disrupting the Georgian-Abkhazian peace talks. In the opinion of the Georgian leaders, by doing this Abkhazia "chose to disrupt the talks, being aware of the fact that the Republic of Georgia would not enter any talks with the Abkhazian party in this conflict as an independent state and a subject of international law."

Shevardnadze Fires Head of Energy Department

LD0112194994 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1400 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—Late in the evening of 30 November, Georgian Head of State

Eduard Shevardnadze dismissed Iuri Chedia from the post of head of the Sakenergo [Georgian energy] department. The former head of Sakmontazhmshenebeli [?Georgian construction association] Givi Gamkrelidze was appointed as Chedia's replacement.

Shevardnadze Blames Mafia for Economic Corruption

LD0112160894 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the current complex economic situation in the republic at the government session, Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze admitted that the situation was caused by the rampage of mafia and wide scale corruption the roots of which had to be searched for, first of all, in high echelons of power, the head of state's office, republic's Cabinet of Ministers, ministries, and departments.

Shevardnadze To Settle Gas Issue in Ashgabat

LD0212094094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Eduard Shevardnadze is off to Ashgabat today to settle the problem of natural gas supplies to this Transcaucasian republic. The situation regarding energy supplies became exacerbated in Georgia in November. In the middle of the month gas deliveries from Turkmenistan were reduced as a result of problems on the Uzbek section of the gas pipe-line via which the gas enters Georgia.

Estonia

Prime Minister Threatens To Resign Over Ownership Law

LD0112155494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Andres Tarand has said the government may resign because of the fact that President Lennart Meri has no intention of promulgating the law amending some clauses to do with the implementation of the ownership rights law [asjaoigusseadus]. According to the presidential office's press service, the president has taken this decision because in his opinion some clauses in the law run counter to the constitution. Here is Andres Tarand stating his view.

[Begin Tarand recording] The aim of the law was an extensive tidying up of legislation on reforms, with the emphasis on speeding up land reform and simplify the housing privatization. The fact that the law will not come into effect will put the attainment of these aims back into a more distant future. The law on housing privatization set down the deadline of 1 December 1994 for the residents' rights of the first option. The Riigikogu wished to extend this deadline, up until 1 March 1995. As the Republic's president has decided not to promulgate the law, which includes the clause about this amendment, a certain legal uncertainty will result when it comes to housing privatization. The government is given by law the task of organizing housing privatization, and we would like to continue this privatization so that the residents' rights of the first option would be valid up until the deadline set by the Riigikogu.

I would like to add, by way of comment, so as to highlight the fact that during this present stage the government is in no way able to intervene in the legislation to do with housing privatization and legislative activity. This has been laid down in the constitution precisely as being an activity between the Riigikogu and the president. However, the executive power's task is to ensure that there is order in the country, and that includes also housing privatization. In other words, the government must accept responsibility for a situation it has not created. In case this present situation, which, quite justifiably, will make the people ask a lot of questions, is used by some political force in the interests of the election campaign, the government is likely to ask to resign. We will discuss this issue in greater detail at the goverment sitting due just now. [end recording]

Tarand: Government Not To Resign Over Differences With Meri

LD0212114694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Estonian Government has adopted a decision not to resign. As Andres Tarand, the head of the cabinet, said yesterday evening at the end of its session, the government has found a way round a solution to its differences with the president.

We recall that earlier Estonian President Lennart Meri had refused to endorse the amendments to the proprietary right law.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Finland, Russia

WS0112154394 Tallinn BNS in English 1617 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov 30, BNS—The heads of the national border guard departments of Estonia, Finland and Russia signed a trilateral cooperation protocol and plan for 1995 in Helsinki on Tuesday [29 November].

Estonia at the meeting also signed separate bilateral protocols with Finland and Russia, plus a protocol with Russia on exchanging of information and operational activity in tracking down violators.

The documents were signed by the director general of the Estonian Border Guard Department, Navy Captain Tarmo Kouts, border guard chiefs Lieutenant General Matti Autio of Finland and Colonel General Andrei Nikolayev of Russia. The signing of the documents came on Finland's initiative.

The trilateral cooperation protocol regulates the activity of the coast guards of Estonia, Finland and Russia on the Gulf of Finland. The countries will work closely to prevent illegal activity in the area and contribute to smooth border crossing.

Trilateral cooperation will be coordinated by the countries' border guard staffs. The plan includes regular meetings of experts and exchanging of information.

Under the protocol signed between Estonia and Finland, experts from the two countries will work on measures against forfeiting of documents, exchange information between their offices and assist each other professionally in the fight against crime. Also agreed upon was joint activity in rescue operations.

Estonia's cooperation protocol with Russia provides for working closely in controlling the sea areas and in rescue operations, in the struggle against illegal immigration, organized crime and transport of illegal goods.

Estonian border guard Chief Tarmo Kouts said that the documents ruled out all political diversities of opinions on the border.

"We have agreed with the Russian border guard leaders to discuss only the technical guarding of the borders without touching upon the aspects which have to be settled by the two countries' politicians by means of negotiations," Kouts said.

The Estonian border guard chief said his Russian colleagues had adopted more "Western" patterns of work over the recent period.

"It is a great victory for us that the border guard structure of our eastern neighbors is adopting a Western-type attitude toward the guarding of borders and (that they) are not going to establish a total border of the kind that the state border of the former Soviet Union used to be. The better the Russian border guard structure works the easier it is for us," Kouts said.

The texts of the agreements were previously agreed upon by the three countries and the documents stepped into force from the moment of signing. Each of the national border guard chiefs also met with his country's president a few days before the Helsinki meeting. Kouts and Russian border guard chief Andrei Nikolayev agreed to again meet in Tallinn on Dec. 25-27.

Development of Relations With Belarus To Be Improved

WS0212111294 Tallinn BNS in English 1808 GMT 01 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Dec 01, BNS—The development of relations between Estonia and Belarus has been lagging and now steps have to be taken to make up quickly for lost time, Foreign Ministry Deputy Chancellor Raul Malk said Thursday [1 December] upon his return from a visit to Minsk.

Malk met during the visit with Foreign Minister Vladimir Senko and held talks with a Foreign Ministry delegation.

The Estonian diplomat said the talks focused on the foundation of contractual relations between the two states. In his words, a document to regulate the relations between the two countries' Foreign Ministries was signed Wednesday. The parties also drew up stage-by-stage plans for concluding interstate agreements.

Malk told reporters both sides gave priority to signing treaties concerning the situation of ethnic minorities and establishing visa-free travel for persons holding diplomatic passports. Another issue of primary importance is concluding an agreement on economy and trade whose central element is establishment of a most favored nation regime in trade.

In Malk's words, concluding of the abovementioned agreements should be followed by solving problems related to legal aid, anti-crime combat, cooperation in culture, education, and science, and transit.

The Estonian diplomat had Wednesday meetings also with representatives from the Belarusian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry to discuss questions of economic cooperation.

Malk told reporters Thursday that current conditions of trade between Belarus and Estonia are extremely disadvantageous for the Baltic republic. He said that Estonia's very liberal economic policy puts practically no obstacles in the path of Belarusian goods to the Estonian market, whereas Estonian goods are up against a very high customs barrier, since under a Russian-Belarusian agreement concluded in April Belarus applies to third countries similar tariffs as Russia.

Representatives of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry brought no accusations against Estonia with regard to the ethnic minority situation, Malk noted at the news conference.

During the meetings in Minsk, Malk also discussed the opening of an Estonian consulate in Belarus. The Estonian Government made the relevant decision already in 1992, but it depends on financial possibilities, Malk said.

Belarusian authorities gave Malk documents concerning the new head of the Belarusian consulate in Estonia. The Estonian diplomat said Belarus wants new premises for its diplomatic representation in Tallinn and authorities believe the consulate may with time develop into an embassy.

Malk said Belarus accounts for one to two percent of Estonia's foreign trade and a considerable part of transit trade also passes through Belarus.

Bank Refutes Kroon Devaluation Rumors

WS0212112794 Tallinn ETA in English 1743 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bank of Estonia made a statement on Thursday [1 December] refuting rumours about devaluation of Estonian kroon in the nearest future, widely quoted in both international and Estonian press and political circles.

Bank of Estonia says that such a process raised a certain concern in them. Bank of Estonia stresses that it has fulfilled all obligations and conditions in keeping the monetary system stable, put on them by the money law and the law on backing the Estonian kroon that created the basics of Estonian monetary system in 1992. The reserves to back the kroon, demanded in the law, exist, and their amount has been published by Bank of Estonia monthly since July 1993. There are no limitations as to exchanging convertible currency into kroons and the other way round, no monetary emission, not backed with reserves, has been made. Thus Bank of Estonia has given no monetary technical reason to devaluate the kroon, the bank states.

Neither does the Bank of Estonia consider the situation of real economy as giving any reason to devaluate the kroon. "It is true that Estonia's foreign trade balance is in deficit but the balance of payments capital account is about 1.5 times bigger than current account deficit. In the period of restructuring economy it is an unavoidable situation which will start paying after the investments have been put to work," the statement says.

The stable exchange rate of the kroon as to the German mark (8:1) has been a creator of stability and credibility to our whole economy, which is testified by the ever increasing amount of foreign investments and acknowledgement of kroon by our neighbour states central banks, Bank of Estonia says, adding that this is why the bank is against any change of the exchange rate.

Bank of Estonia states that the devaluation of the kroon would at first bring about increase of prices of import goods, which will be followed by these of the Estonian goods that have to compete with them at the market, which means that about 70 percent of the consumer basket will become more expensive in a short time, while the Estonian export goods would loose in value and foreign loans already taken would become more expensive to pay back.

The fact that the issue of devaluation of Estonian kroon was raised just before the official election campaign for the 1995 March general elections starts, shows attempts to use the issue of stability of kroon as a weapon to achieve populistic success in election fight, which is considered unethical by the Bank of Estonia.

Bank of Estonia reminds that the devaluation of the kroon is, according to the money law, to be decided by the parliament i.e. politicians and political parties. That is why Bank of Estonia asks all parties that will take part in the elections to express in their election programme, directly and comprehensively, their attitude to preserving the stability of the exchange rate of the kroon. This is important for both Estonian people and companies and our foreign trade partners to know, Bank of Estonia concludes.

Latvia

Government Approves 1995 State Budget Plan

WS0112101094 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Nov 30, BNS—The Latvian Government approved Tuesday [29 November] the draft state budget plan for 1995, fixing the income at 475 million lats and spendings at 515 million lats.

The maximally admissible budget deficit is 40 million lats.

In another action, the ministers passed amendments to the law on privatization vouchers providing that compensation for property uniting in state-owned Soviet farming enterprises will be paid in vouchers.

The Cabinet also accepted amendments to visa regulations lifting transit visas for passengers of transit trains, which pass through customs and frontier control at each stop in the Latvian territory. The development will speed the passage of transit trains through Latvia by two hours.

In addition, the group approved financial reports of the State Property Privatization Fund for 1993 and eight months of 1994.

The newly adopted amendments to the law on court power provide that 20 percent of collected state duties for lawsuits will be used to develop the court system.

The government passed a draft Latvian-Chinese agreement stipulating the most favored nation status in bilateral trade relations and a Latvian-Israeli pact on cooperation in telecommunications and post service.

The ministers also voiced support for Latvia's entrance into the Central and East European Privatization Organization.

To ensure Latvia's participation in the U.N. World Social Development summit, the government set up a national committee at the leadership of Prime Minister Maris Gailis. The conference is scheduled for March, 1995, in Copenhagen.

Finally, the Cabinet confirmed a draft letter to the International Monetary Fund about the performance of economic and financial programs.

Parliament Supports 12 New Taxation Laws

WS0212111494 Tallinn BNS in English 1614 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Dec 01, BNS—The Latvian parliament voted Thursday for the first reading of 12 bills in a new package of 15 taxation laws. The last bill on natural resources tax will be considered later today.

Lawmakers rejected two of the draft laws, namely, amendments to the law on entrepreneurship and amendments to the law on the value-added tax in view of similar projects already being discussed by the parliament.

The new laws will improve the legal arrangement of the tax collection system and promote tax collection simultaneously retaining low tax rates, said Finance Minister Andris Piebalgs. The fiscal aim of the package is to achieve that taxes constitute 33.7 percent of the gross domestic product in 1995. The amendments are also targeted at reducing the direct taxes and determining uniform rates for all enterprises.

The social aim of the package is abstaining from tax increase to low income residents and creating favorable environment for the development of small farms.

Six bills of the package will be passed as urgent in two readings, the others will have to go through three readings.

As reported, the package included laws on taxes and duties; on enterprises' income tax; on value-added tax; on natural resources' tax; and amendments to the the law on residents' income tax.

In addition, the set involved an already passed law on gambling and lottery tax and amendments to a law on excise tax and customs duties.

The package does not contain a law on property tax because it is still being improved taking into account recommendations by local governments and house owners.

The new legislations were drafted to order the Latvian taxation laws in line with the European Union requirements and create an easy-to-operate taxation control mechanism.

Part of the new laws could take effect Jan. 1, 1995, while the other part could start to function somewhat later, said Piebalgs.

Debts to Russian Gas Concern Obstruct Talks on Contract

WS0112101394 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Nov 30, BNS—Talks between the Latvijas Gaze (Latvian Gas) enterprise and the Russian Gazprom gas concern are obstructed by the Latvian 12-million-U.S.-dollar debt for supplied gas, Latvian Energy Minister Juris Ozolins told reporters Tuesday [29 November].

The debt formed between September and November, and Latvijas Gaze will have to look for loans to pay it, Ozolins said.

As reported, Latvijas Gaze has already received 28.39 million dollars in loans from the Japanese Export and Import Bank and the International Reconstruction and Development Bank to pay for Gazprom supplies in 1993 and 1994.

Commenting on the talks with Gazprom's management, Ozolins described them as "inflexible" regarding prices.

Gazprom insists that this year's price of 77.5 U.S. dollars per 1,000 cubic meters of gas is preserved, while Latvian Gas wants the price curtailed to $60. The Latvian gas company also aims at extension of accounting terms from 10 days to one month.

"Compared with the 1993 talks on natural gas supply to Latvia when Gazprom management dictated its own terms, economic concern is felt in the talks this year because Russia has already lost 60 percent of the Baltic market," said Latvian Gas Director General Adrians Davis.

It is more advantageous to Russia to transport gas to the Baltic states than, for example, to France because the task is less complicated, Davis noted.

The Baltic energy ministers failed to reach an agreement last week in Riga on common strategies for talks with Gazprom. In addition, each of the three Baltic states have different relations with Gazprom. For example, the Estonian gas supply system has fully become Gazprom's property, Ozolins noted.

As reported, Gazprom's leadership is expected to visit Riga in the beginning of December to meet with Latvijas Gaze management over an anticipated contract on supply of natural gas in 1995. If the contract is concluded, Russia could start pumping gas into the Latvian Incukalns container in April, 1993, said Davis.

Lithuania

Individual Partnership Program With NATO Signed

LD0112115894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Albinas Januska, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and NATO Secretary General Willy Claes signed an individual Lithuanian-NATO partnership program in Brussels yesterday.

According to the present NATO expansion strategy, a consistent and active implementation of the individual program is leading to a new state becoming a full NATO member.

Vigantas Usackas, the adviser of the Lithuanian permanent mission in the European Union, informed during his speech at a meeting of the ambassadors of the North Atlantic Council that Januska had noted that individual partnership was opening a new era of bilateral Lithuanian-NATO relations and was leading to a membership in the North Atlantic alliance. Albinas Januska also noted that the individual program is the first obvious fruit of cooperation with NATO, illustrating Lithuania's progress in the integration with Western institutions.

The Lithuanian delegation also includes Ambassador Virgilijus Bulovas, General Jonas Andriskevicius, commander of the Lithuanian Army, and Eidvidas Bajorunas, deputy head of the department of multilateral relations of the Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Ministry.

More meetings with NATO officials, politicians, and military leaders are to take place in Brussels to discuss Lithuania's security policy and prospects on integration with NATO.

Jursenas Praises Signed Agreement With Poland

WS2911104294 Tallinn BNS in English 1815 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Nov 28, BNS—The Lithuanian-Polish agreement on friendship and cooperation is important not only to the two countries, but to the rest of Europe, as well, Lithuanian Parliament Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas said Monday [28 November].

The agreement took effect Saturday after Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak and his Lithuanian counterpart Adolfas Slezevicius exchanged ratification notes.

Jursenas told reporters that the accord not only closes "unpleasant pages" in the history of the two countries, but also "determines opportunities for potential cooperation." Jursenas said the agreement is a continuation of the 1992 Lithuanian-Polish declaration and added that it proves the "continuity of policy."

The parliament chairman said the agreement is more acceptable to Lithuania than the declaration because it ensures territorial integrity more clearly. In his words, the agreement does not leave a chance for any forces in Poland to claim that Vilnius does not belong to Lithuania lawfully, because it was handed over according to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact.

Jursenas also noted that the rights and obligations of national minorities are more accurately defined in the agreement. He pointed out an article, which says that national minorities are loyal to the country where they live. In his words, the condition was only mentioned in the declaration, while the agreement made this an obligation. Jursenas said the rights given to national minorities do not mean that they can violate the principles of territorial integrity.

President Claims Problems With Russia Can Be Settled

LD2911110594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0951 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius November 29 TASS—"I believe there are no problems in our relations with Russia that cannot be settled," Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas told ITAR-TASS today. "In any case, we are fully resolved to reach agreement as equitable partners on all the problems concerning Lithuania and Russia," he added.

"The relations between our two countries are normal," Brazauskas stated. However, he finds it illogical that the agreement on the mutual granting of the most favoured nation treatment remains inactive for more than one year. The president believes that the principles of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) are thereby being ignored. He stressed that both Lithuania and Russia wanted to be members of that organisation. "I believe it is not quite right to make a trade regime dependent on transit problems. After all, transit shipments are being continued, while there is no normal trade between our two countries," Brazauskas stated.

The rules for shipping dangerous and military cargoes across Lithuanian territory, which were endorsed by the government of the republic, will become binding both on Russia and the other states as of January 1st, 1995. However, this does not mean that Russian transit shipments will be suspended or that we want to break off the talks. Transit shipments will continue just as, I hope, the talks with Moscow on the shipment through its territory of especially dangerous and military cargoes," the president stressed.

"Lithuania has no preliminary commitments to Russia, allowing the latter to effect military transit shipments across its territory," Brazauskas noted. "We realise Russia's desire to ensure the vital needs of Kaliningrad region. Transit shipments are being effected, and nobody can say that obstacles are being put up to them," he added.

The Baltic MPs' resolution on Kaliningrad region, which has triggered a sharp reaction in Russia, "does not fully meet the principles and fundamental directions of Lithuania's external policy," Brazauskas stressed. "However, it is up to the Baltic Assembly to make such statements or not," he added. Brazauskas reiterated that Lithuania recognised Kaliningrad region as part and parcel of Russia. The republic's leadership categorically rejects all extremist, irresponsible statements, attempting to call in doubt this region's inclusion in Russia or to sow doubts concerning Lithuania's present borders with Russia, Poland, and Belarus. "Unfortunately, some of our rather well-known politicians are known to be engaging in this," the president noted.

He stressed that Lithuania "is interested in the development of Kaliningrad region as a free economic zone and wants our 20,000 fellow countrymen, now residing there, to enjoy the same rights as those given to Russians in our republic."

"We realise that the number of servicemen in Kaliningrad region can be cut only by Russia itself," Brazauskas stated. "It is important that this process is already taking place. I noted this in my speech to the session of the U.N. General Assembly. Not only our country, but the other Baltic nations, too, are apparently interested in the continuation of this process."

The head of the Lithuanian state said that everything would depend on Russia's policy, on the situation in Europe and in the given region. "If the situation develops favourably, Kaliningrad region will apparently become a connecting link between several regions, will play an important role in Russia's economy and trade," Brazauskas said, rounding off the interview.

Deputy Chairman: All New Officials in Office by New Year

LD3011231794 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuanian Seimas Deputy Chairman Juozas Bernatonis says that all officials of law and order institutions will be approved by the New Year.

He told a news conference on Wednesday, 30 November, that it will mark the beginning of legal reform in Lithuania. As of the beginning of 1995 a new system of courts will start functioning in Lithuania. There will be the supreme court, the court of appeal and regional courts.

The Lithuanian Seimas has already appointed thirteen out of the 23 judges of the supreme court and eleven judges of the court of appeal. The forming of regional courts is in its final stage as well.

Bernatonis voiced his regret over the voting down in the Seimas of Justinas Vasiliauskas who was proposed by the president to the post of procurator general. On Tuesday Vasiliauskas' candidature was rejected as he did not get the necessary number of votes to become the general procurator.

Before the voting on Tuesday the opposition forces—the rightists, the centrists and the social democrats unilaterally spoke against the candidate. However, as the deputy chairman of the Seimas put it, there is no need to make a problem out of the voting results. The term of office of the present procurator general, Arturas Paulauskas, expires on 1st January. Bernatonis expressed his conviction that the Seimas will designate a new procurator general to be again put forward by the president.

Brazauskas on Military Transit Talks, Kaliningrad

LD2811192594

[FBIS Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 1430 GMT on 28 November carries on its regular Monday interview a 15-minute interview with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

To a question about accusations by Russia that the Lithuanian side has halted negotiations on military transit, Brazauskas says the following:

"I would like to remind you that Lithuania does not have any prior obligations to allow Russia's military transit through the territory of Lithuania.

"However, we understand Russia's interest to maintain the vitality of the Kaliningrad region, and that is why the transit is taking place. Therefore, nobody can reproach us that we are making artificial obstacles. Russia, who is our partner, cannot present any claims on that today.

"As of 1 January 1995 the regulations for transportation of hazardous and military cargoes confirmed by the Lithuanian Government will be applied to Russia and indeed to any other state. This does not mean that the Russian transit will be stopped or that we want to halt the negotiations."

Brazauskas says Lithuania is prepared to continue the negotiations on all the issues.

Answering a question on whether Russo-Lithuanian relations at the moment are normal, Brazauskas says the following:

"There are no problems in our relations with Russia, to my mind, on which we would not be able to reach an agreement."

The president admits, however, that it is unreasonable that the treaty on most favored nation signed more than a year ago is not valid yet. He says: "This is a clear case of ignoring the principles of GATT, which is a world-wide-known organization."

He continues: "I would call the linking of the problem of trade regime with the problem of transit as rather inappropriate, because the transit is taking place, whereas normal trade, as you know, is practically not."

In the wake of the recent controversial resolution on the future status of the Kaliningrad region adopted by the Baltic Assembly and Russia's heated reaction to it, Brazauskas is asked to give his view on the future of the Kaliningrad region and its geopolitical position in Europe. He says:

"Well, to make statements or not is a matter of the Baltic Assembly. The deputies were discussing these issues there; however, one could say that the above resolution does not entirely correspond to the main trends and principles of Lithuania's foreign policy.

"Once again I would like to say that Lithuania recognizes the Kaliningrad region as an integral part of Russia. The leadership of Lithuania rejects vigorously any extreme statements by which attempts are made to question whether the Kaliningrad region belongs to Russia."

The president mentions specifically the report made at the conference concerning historic development of Lithuania's state borders and problems of today. He says a resolution that had been adopted on that report could not be supported. He says: "Of course Lithuania would like to see the Kaliningrad region developing as a free trade zone and the 20,000 or so Lithuanians living there enjoying the same rights as the Russians living in Lithuania."

He says only Russia could reduce the number of troops there and adds that "this process will depend on Russia's policy and the general situation in the region and Europe."

Both Ignalina Nuclear Reactors in Operation

LD2811135394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Both power units at the Ignalina nuclear power station are already supplying energy to the power grid of the country today.

The first power unit which was shut down exactly two weeks ago when the safety of the power plant was being inspected was put back into operation yesterday at 1730 GMT and currently is working with the capacity of 750 MW.

The work load of the second reactor was reduced to the same capacity which had been working at the capacity of 1,300 MW.

The Director of the power plant Viktor Shevaldin told the BNS correspondent that both reactors were ready to work at a higher capacity, however, at the moment this was not required.

The shutdown of both reactors at the Ignalina nuclear power plant in the middle of November will cost about 40 million litas.

Opposition Fails To Discuss Chechen in Seimas

LD2811185294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The opposition factions in the Lithuanian parliament [Seimas] failed to include discussion of a statement supporting Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev in the agenda of the parliament's plenary meeting, the Lithuanian opposition's press service said today. The same source said that the proposal had failed to receive the required majority of votes in the parliament's presidium.

A group of the opposition's parliamentarians supporting Groznyy intends to initiate a meeting between representatives of political and public organizations backing the Chechen leadership on Wednesday.

Leader of the parliament's right opposition Vytautas Landsbergis held a press conference on the issue today. He told the press conference that "Russia is using military force for overthrowing the legitimate power in the Chechen Republic under disguise of the interior Chechen opposition."

The Lithuanian parliament's Speaker Ceslovas Jursenas told another press conference today that he regretted that blood was being shed and force was used in Chechnya and other regions. He added that, however, the Lithuanian parliament should concentrate on urgent domestic problems rather than on the Chechen problem.

Russian Community Says Cultural Needs 'Disregarded'

WS2911105194 Tallinn BNS in English 1815 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Nov 28, BNS—The Lithuanian Government does not support the development of Russian culture in the country and even seeks to create an "information and cultural vacuum," the Russian Community of Lithuania (RCL) said in a communique released Nov. 26.

Last week, RCL representatives met with Vasili Tarasenko, chairman of the Federation Affairs Committee of the Russian Federation Council (upper house of the Russian parliament).

The meeting focused on problems encountered by Russians living in Lithuania and their aspiration to get integrated into Lithuania's political, economic and social life without losing their language and culture.

RCL representatives indicated that the cultural needs of Russians are disregarded in Lithuania, the number of radio and TV programs in Russian is reduced and that Russian schools are in a critical situation through shortage of funds.

Tarasenko said preparatory work for supporting Russians in the Baltic countries and the CIS is currently underway on governmental and legislative level in Russia. He also promised to inform Lithuania's Government about problems pointed out during the meeting.

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